

MARVEL



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7
1983

CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNUAL



**A STAR-STudded
EPIC WITH
A.I.M.!
THE
AQUARIAN!
THE
SHAPER
OF
WORLDS!**

**CHAOS
CUBED!
THE ULTIMATE
TALE OF THE
COSMIC CUBE!**

DIETRICH/SINNOTT

SCOTTIE

A Cracker Jack story

OKAY, SCOTTIE! THE SCORE IS TIED, BASES LOADED, AND TWO OUTS! GET IN THERE AND SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF.



STRIKE ONE!

GULP! WHAT IF I STRIKE OUT?!??



STRIKE TWO!

YOU CAN DO IT, SCOTTIE!

YOU'RE A CRACKER JACK.



ZOOM!

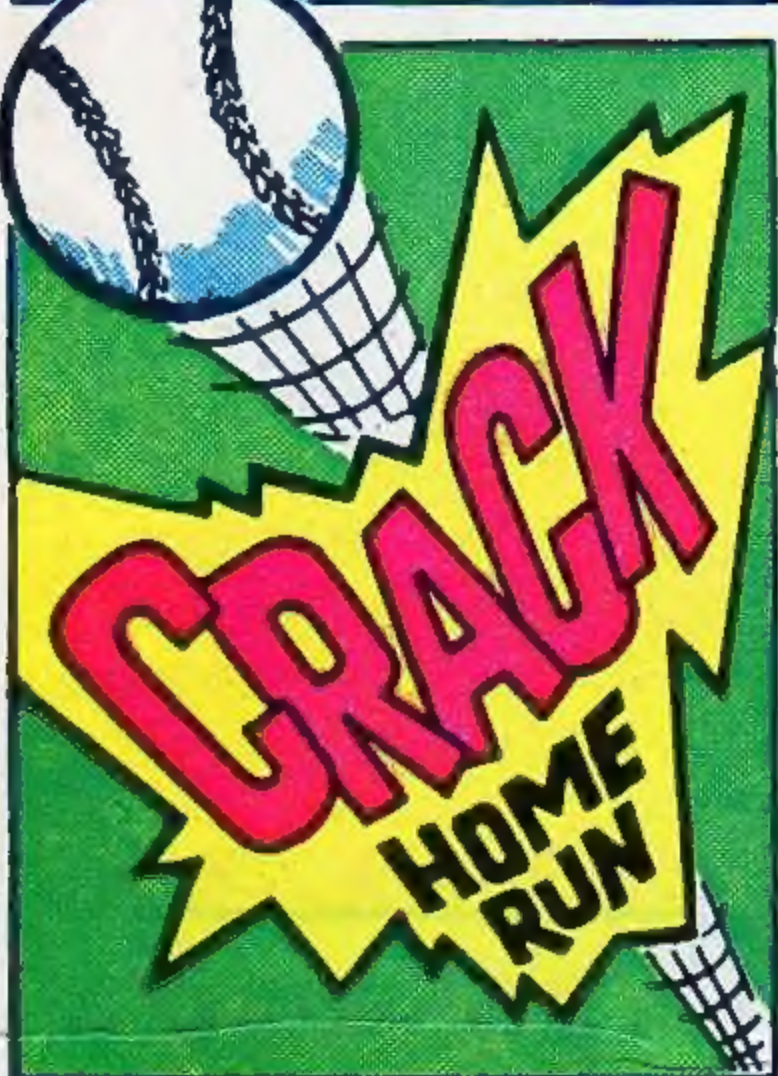
WHAP!

WHEN YOU'RE REALLY GOOD- THEY CALL YOU CRACKER JACK

YOU DID IT, SCOTTIE.

WE WON THE PLAYOFFS!

WHAT A CRACKER JACK!



Cracker Jack.
CANDIED POPCORN AND PEANUTS

Crunchy caramel-coated popcorn and peanuts and a secret toy surprise!

Toy Surprise INSIDE!

BORDEN



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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

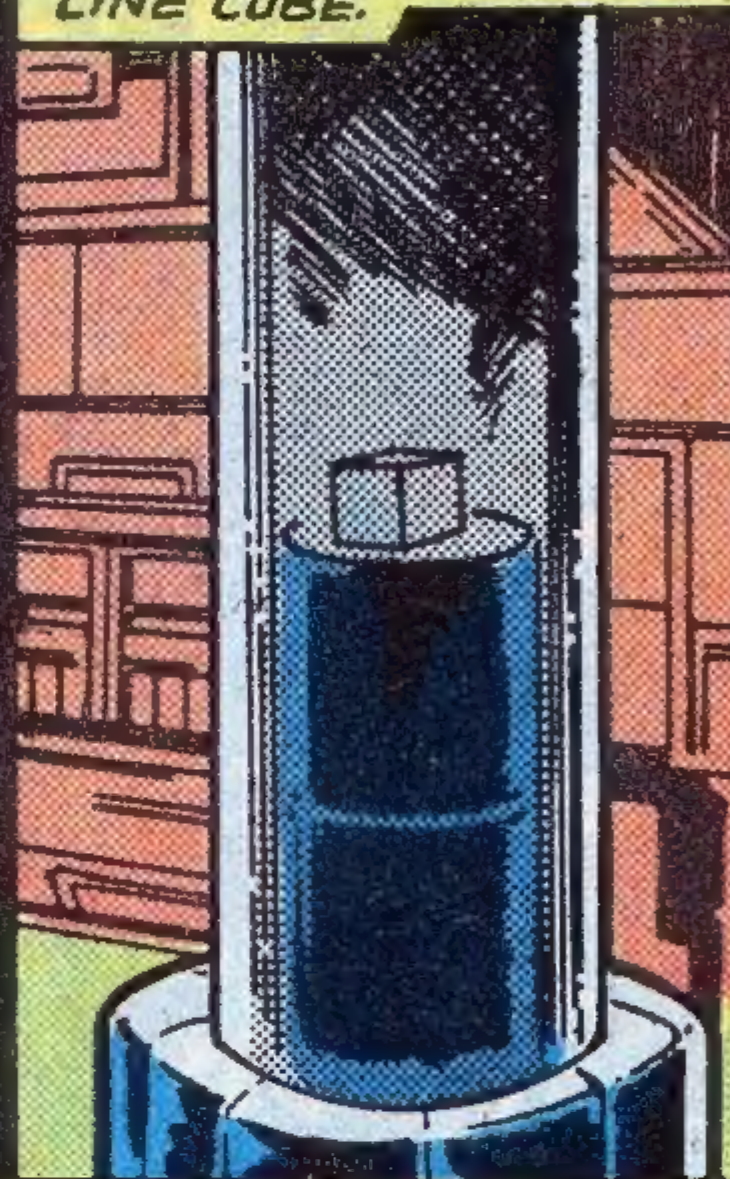
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

INSIDE PROJECT PEGASUS, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S TOP SECRET ENERGY RESEARCH FACILITY...

THERE IS A HEAVILY-
GUARDED CHAMBER...

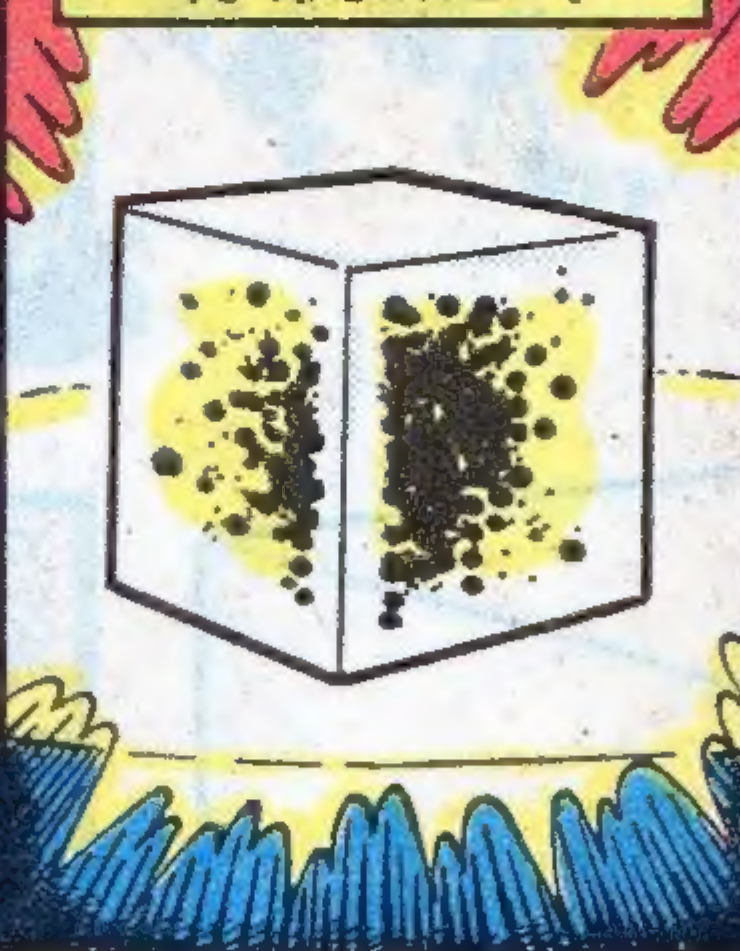


AT THE CENTER OF IT
SITS A SMALL, CRYSTAL-
LINE CUBE.



FOR LONG MONTHS NOW IT HAS LAIN DORMANT,
SEEMINGLY SPENT OF ITS UNFATHOMABLE POWER,
AND THE WORLD HAS BEEN THE SAFER FOR IT.

THEN, ALMOST
HESITANTLY, LIKE A
SLEEPING CHILD, THE
CUBE BEGINS TO STIR--
TO RADIATE--!



THE TIME HAS
COME! NOW IS THE
HOUR OF THE COSMIC
CUBE!



FOR WITH THIS SMALL OCCURRENCE, EVENTS ARE SET
IN MOTION--EVENTS THAT WILL DRAW THE MAN
CALLED CAPTAIN AMERICA--AND THE WORLD--INTO...

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THE LAST ENCHANTMENT!

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**FIRST REACTION: IN A CHAMBER
A GALAXY AWAY...**

WHAT WE HAVE WAITED
FOR--AND FEARED--
FOR SO LONG, HAS FINALLY
COME TO PASS! FROM
HERE, I MUST LEAVE
THE REST UP TO YOU.

YOU'VE DONE MORE
THAN YOUR SHARE--
AND I AWAIT WHAT IS
TO COME WITH EAGER-
NESS DESPITE THE
DANGER.

AND YET, I
WONDER WHAT
OTHERS WOULD
SAY.

**SECOND REACTION:
ALONG A GRASSY
LANE IN RURAL
OHIO...**

A BEING NAMED
WUNDARR, NOW
KNOWN AS THE
AQUARIAN, WALKS
QUIETLY, LISTENING
TO BIRDSONG
AND BREATHING
THE FRAGRANCE
OF SUMMER.

HE IS IN HARMONY
WITH IT ALL.

**THIRD REACTION:
IN A SUBTERRANEAN
COMPLEX, SOMEWHERE
IN THE AMERICAN
WEST...**

WELL, YOU WERE RIGHT
ALL THE TIME: THE
COSMIC CUBE STILL
DOES EXIST!

IT'S GOOD TO
HEAR YOU ADMIT IT. I
KNEW THAT KEEPING THESE
ULTRAFINE DETECTORS RUNNING
FOR ALL THIS TIME WOULD
EVENTUALLY PAY OFF.

BY OUR ORIGINS, WE OUGHT TO BE ETERNAL ENEMIES. THERE IS NO REASON YOU SHOULD HELP ME IN THIS.

NONE -- EXCEPT TO AVERT THE DESTRUCTION OF MUCH OF OUR COMMON UNIVERSE. WE BOTH KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IS AT STAKE HERE.

THE ANCIENT EVIL MUST NOT RISE AGAIN. WE DO WHAT WE MUST, THAT I MAY PERFORM MY FUNCTION --

--AND I MY PENANCE. I SHALL BE READY TO GO VERY SOON.

SUDDENLY, AS IF A VOICE BROKE THE QUIET, HE COCKS HIS HEAD.

HE TURNS FROM HIS CHOSEN PATH, AND SETS OUT IN A NEW DIRECTION --

CASUALLY, HE EXTENDS HIS FIELD OF NULL-FORCE EARTHWARD, AND RISES SLOWLY INTO THE AIR. WHILE HE HAS FOREGONE NEEDLESS DISPLAYS OF POWER, THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE.

AND NOW OUR COMPUTERS HAVE LOCATED THOSE DELICATE RADIATIONS -- AND SOON OUR CREATION SHALL BE IN THE HANDS OF ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS ONCE MORE.

AND WITH IT, NOTHING LESS THAN INFINITE POWER!!

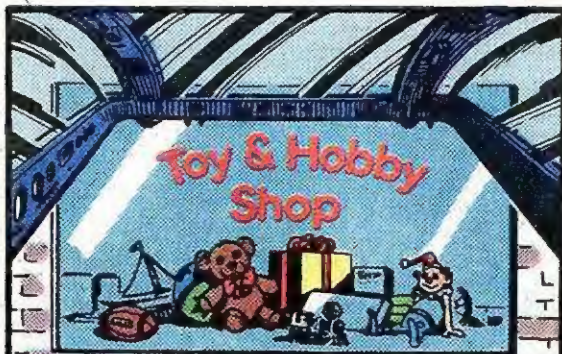
ATTENTION, A/I STRIKE FORCE! THIS IS A FULL MOBILIZATION ALERT!

WE'RE GOING AFTER THE COSMIC CUBE -- WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!!

STAR FRONTIERS™



...FROM THE VERY CENTER OF THE GREAT SPIRAL GALAXY... ON A QUEST WITH BUT ONE INTENTION...



... TO A PLANET FORBIDDEN, DRIVEN BY A FORCE **UNSTOPPABLE...**



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THE CIRCUS
TAUGHT HIM
ARCHERY.
THE AVENGERS
TAUGHT HIM
CRIMEFIGHTING.

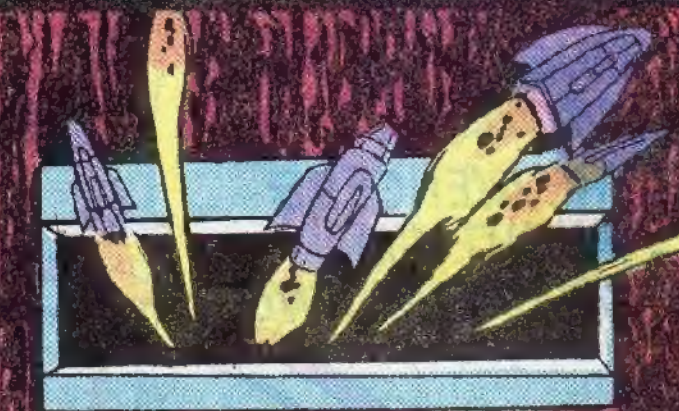
NOBODY'S TAUGHT HIM
HOW TO *MISS*.

HAWKEYE™



A 4-PART
MARK GRUENWALD AND BRETT BREEDING!

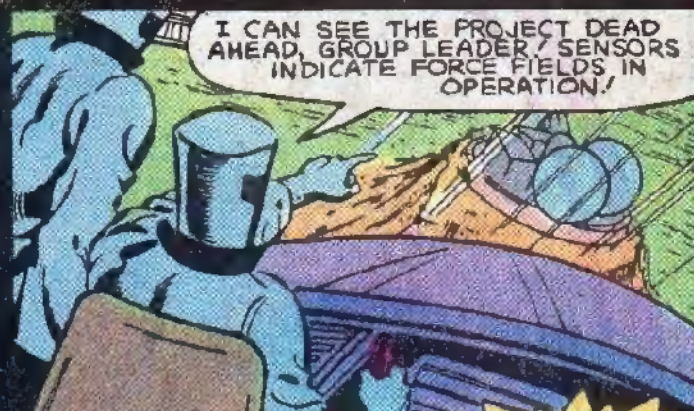
ALL UNITS SCRAMBLE! NO RESERVES
ARE TO BE LEFT BEHIND!



FIRST SQUADRON
HAS CLEARED HANGAR DOORS!
LAUNCH SECOND SQUADRON!



TO ALL UNITS:
CENTRAL HAS IDENTIFIED THE
CUBE'S LOCATION AS PROJECT
PEGASUS! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
A REAL FIGHT ON OUR HANDS!



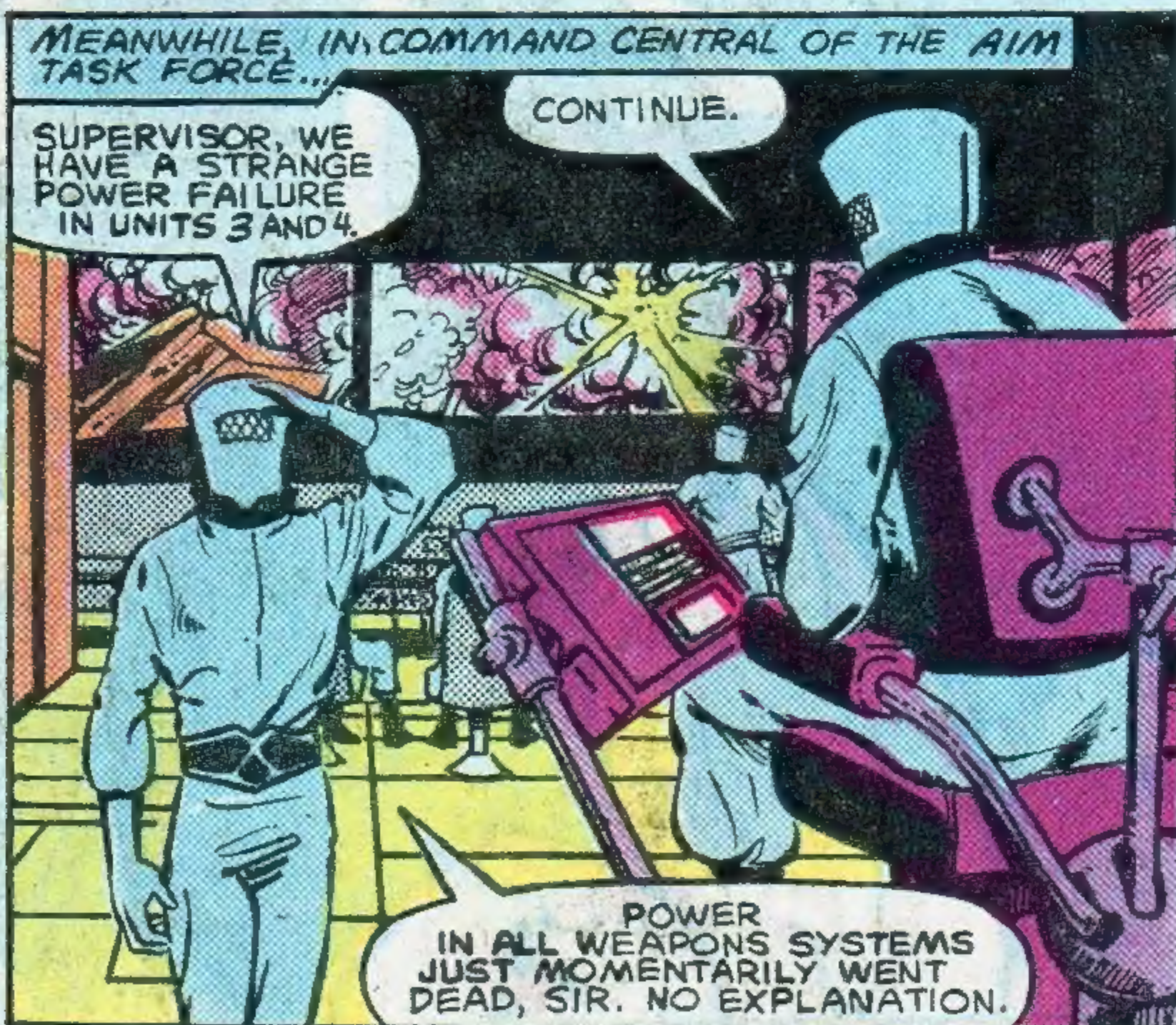
I CAN SEE THE PROJECT DEAD
AHEAD, GROUP LEADER! SENSORS
INDICATE FORCE FIELDS IN
OPERATION!

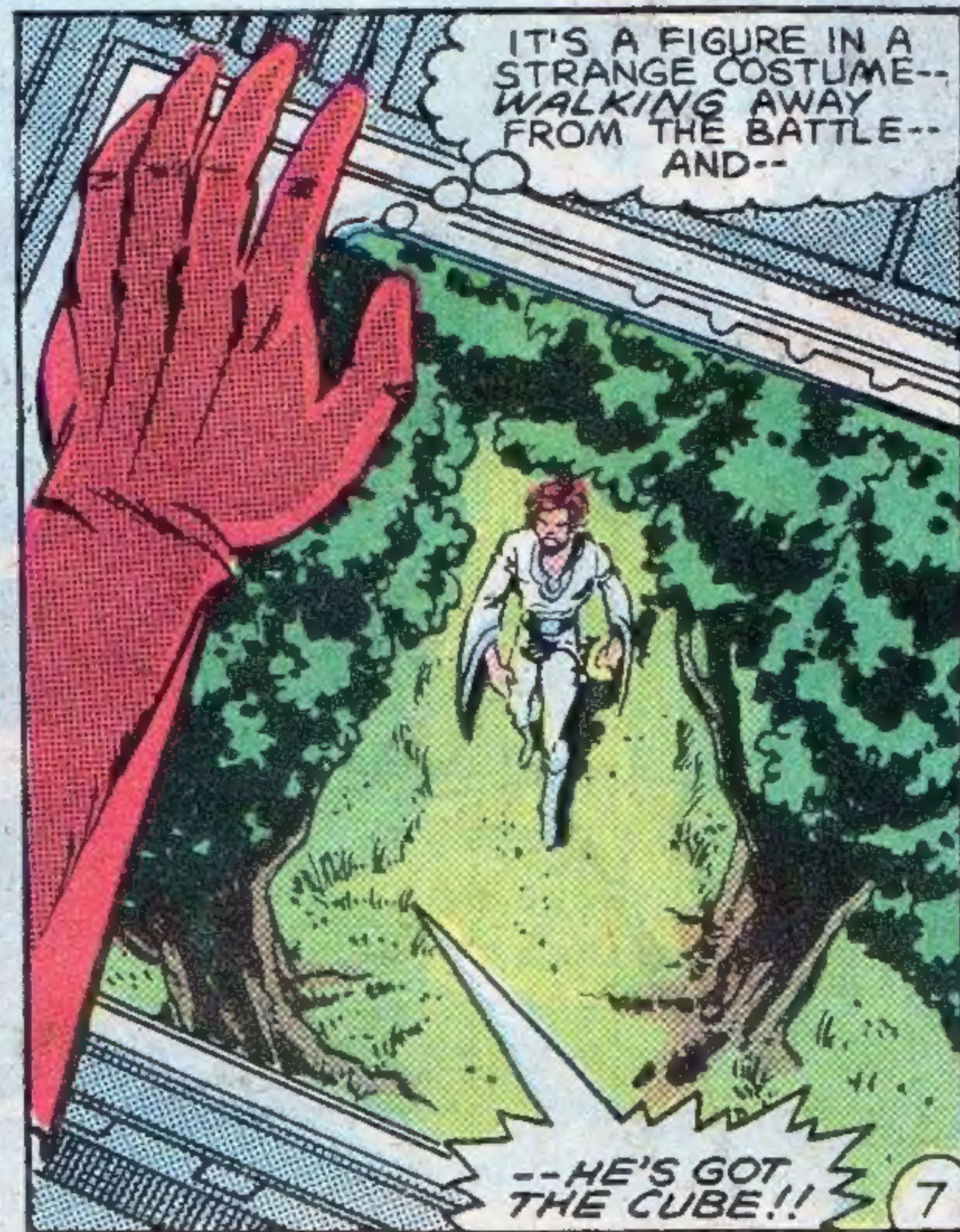
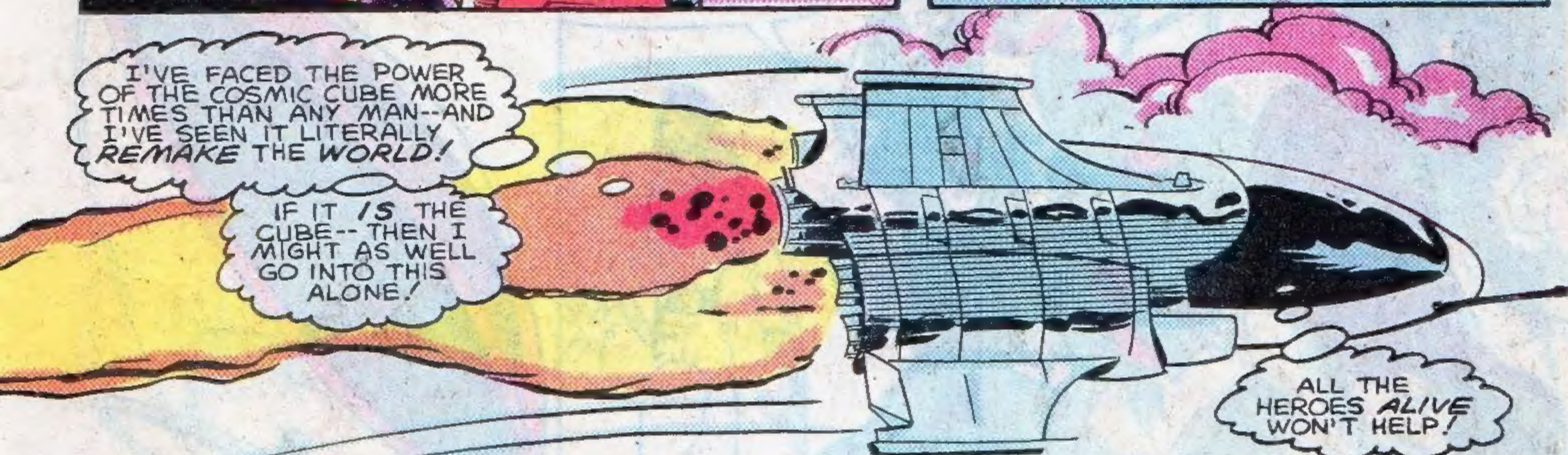
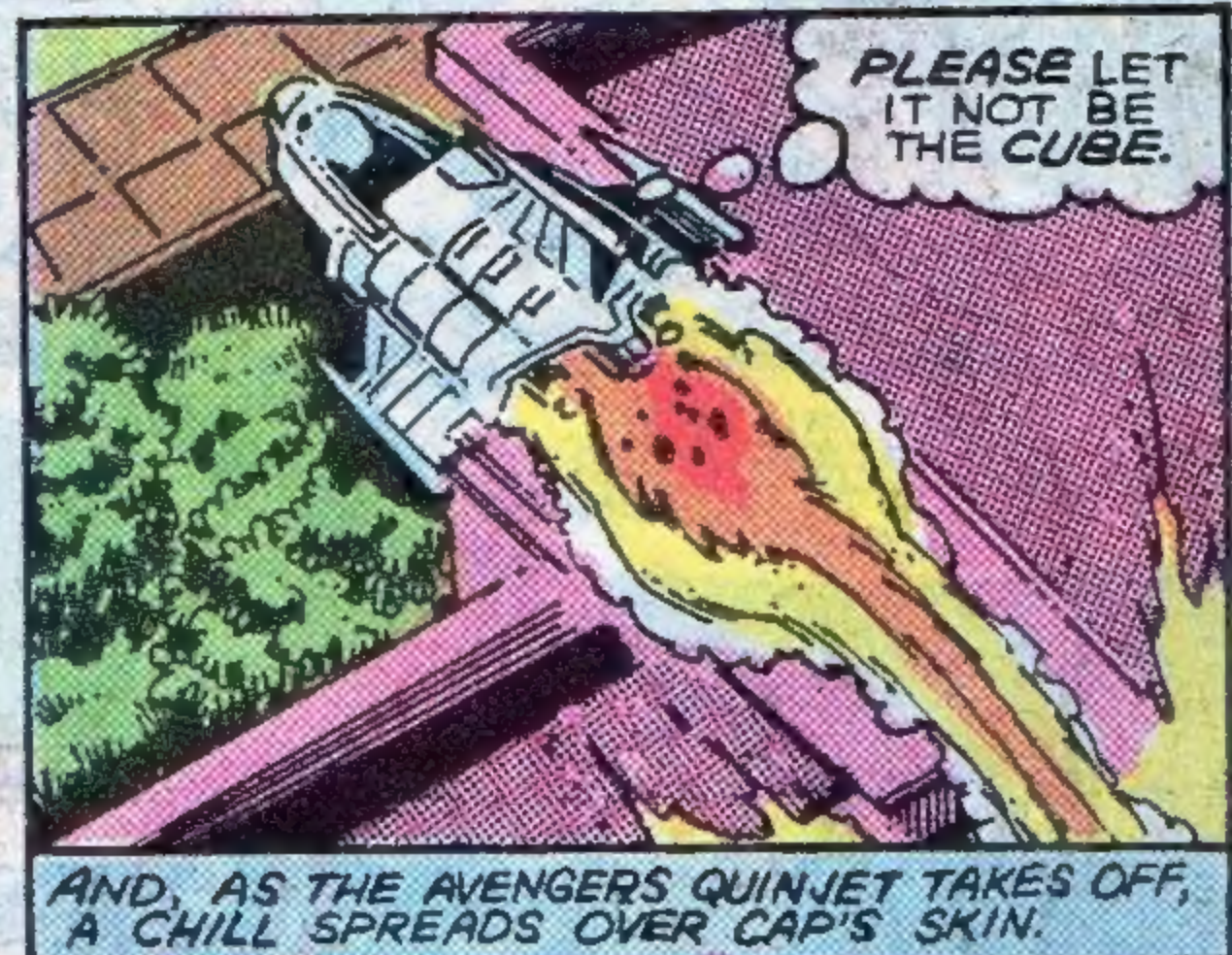
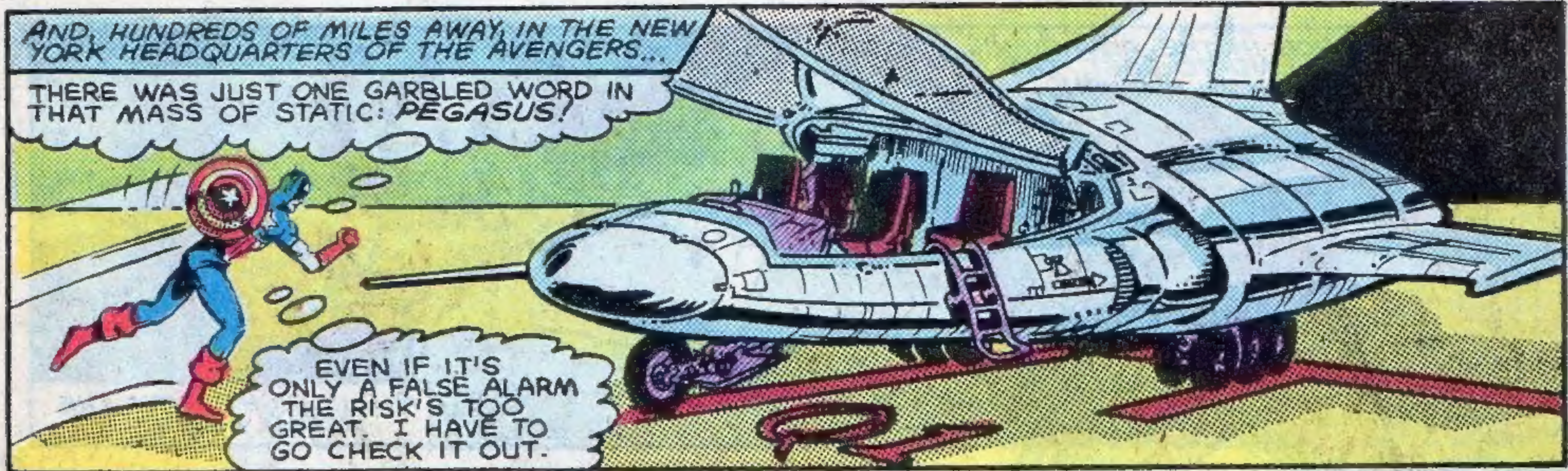
NO TIME
FOR FINESSE,
BOYS! MAXIMUM
FRONTAL ASSAULT!
FIRE AT WILL!



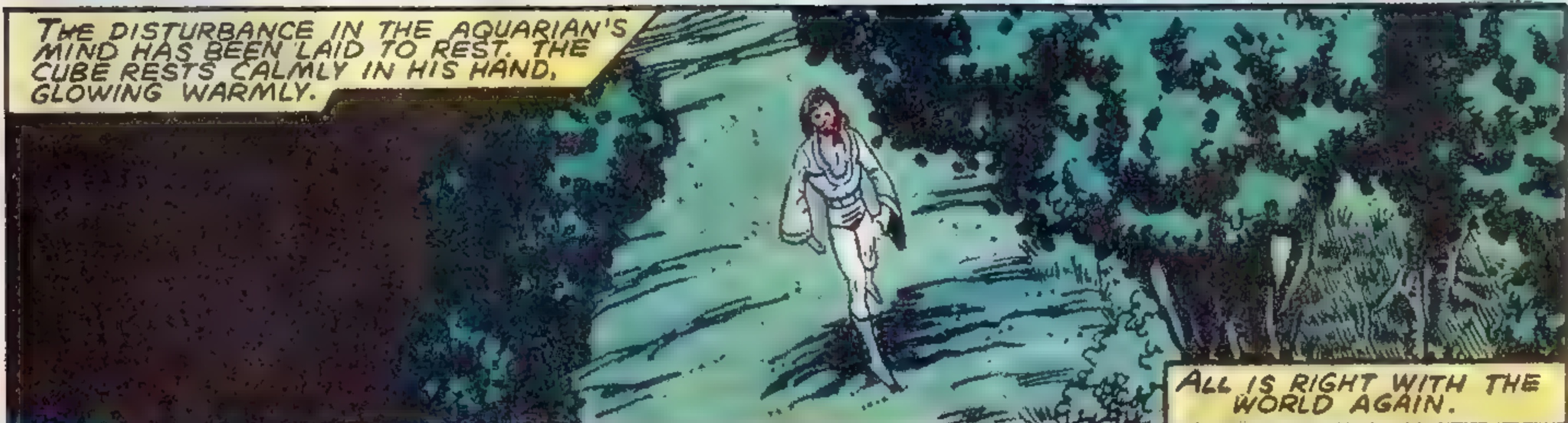
AND SO IT COMES TO PASS THAT TWO OF THE MOST
TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED ORGANIZATIONS ON THE
FACE OF THE EARTH ENGAGE IN THE MOST PRIMITIVE
AND SAVAGE OF PROCESSES--AN ACTION SO OLD THAT
EVEN THE WORD FOR IT IS MEDIEVAL--

AS PROJECT PEGASUS
IS BESIEGED!





THE DISTURBANCE IN THE AQUARIAN'S MIND HAS BEEN LAID TO REST. THE CUBE RESTS CALMLY IN HIS HAND, GLOWING WARMLY.



ALL IS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD AGAIN.

WUNDARR?? WUNDARR HAD THE MIND OF A FOUR-YEAR-OLD!

OH, THE CUBE CHANGED THAT--IT MADE ME INTO WHAT I AM NOW--THE AQUARIAN! *

IT'S THE CUBE I'M HERE ABOUT--WUNDARR--

DON'T WORRY. IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE WITH ME.

*MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #58.

THEN...

ALL RIGHT, MISTER! THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA! I WANT YOU TO SURRENDER THE CUBE!

CAPTAIN! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

BUT I GUESS YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME. IT'S ME--WUNDARR!

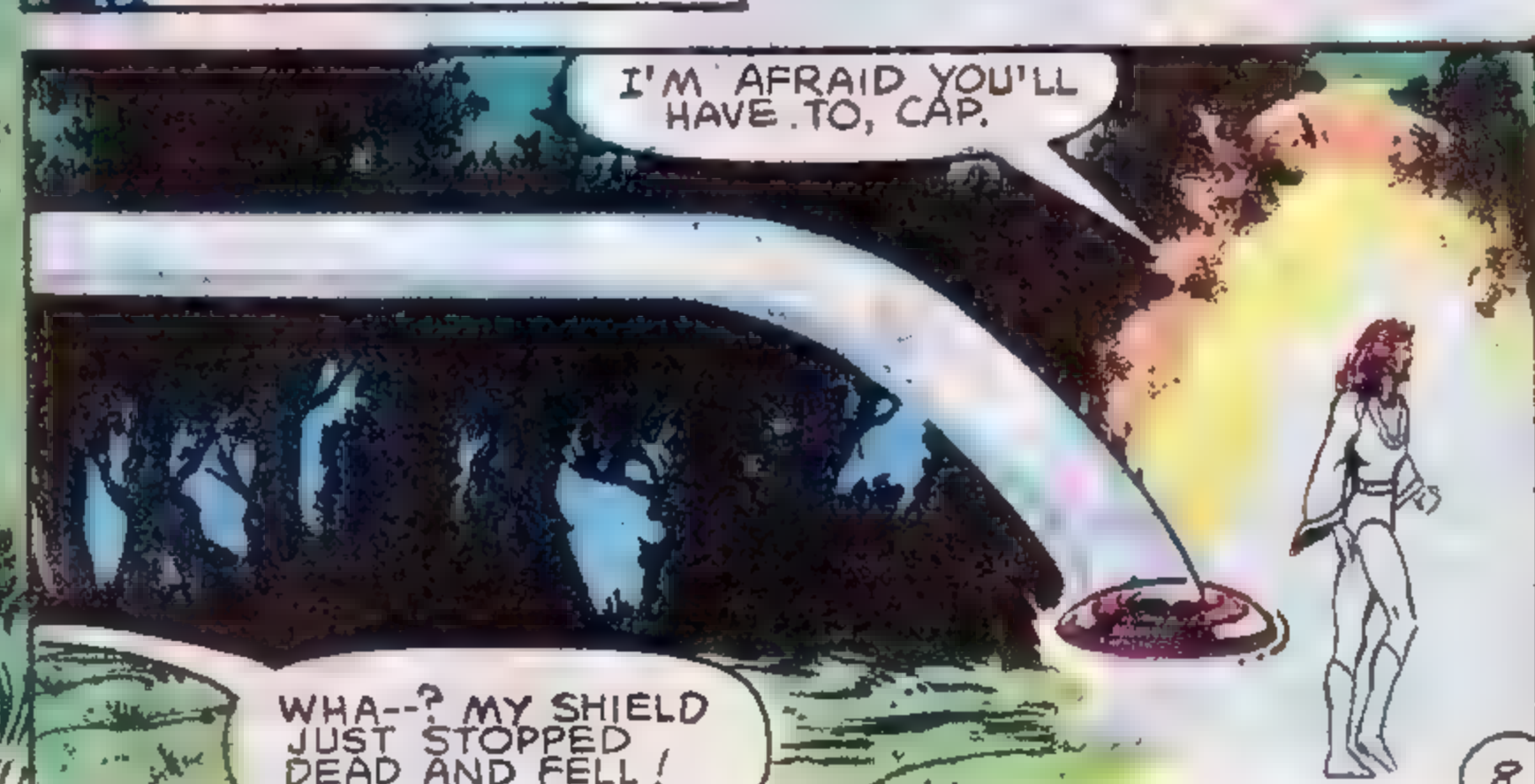
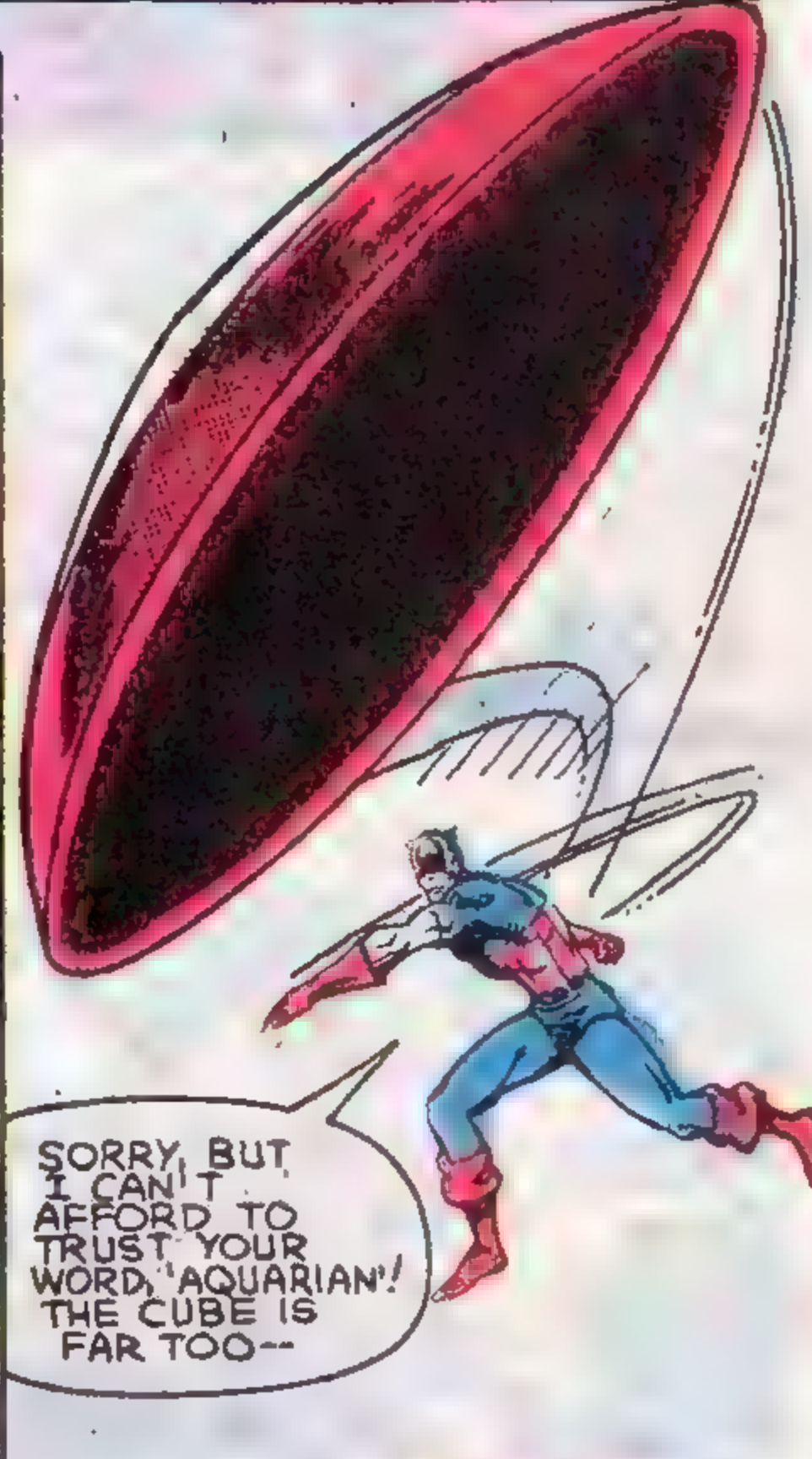
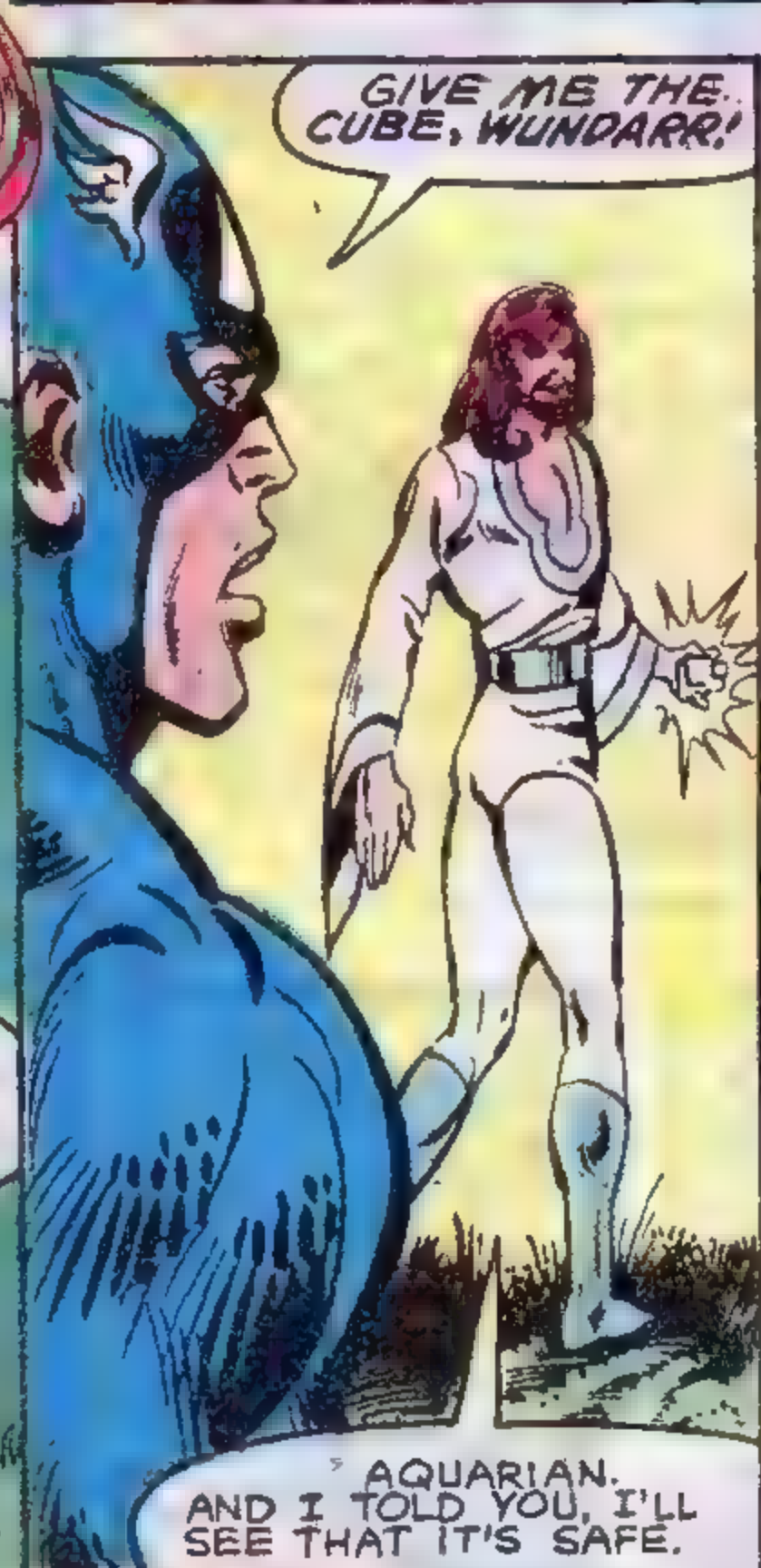
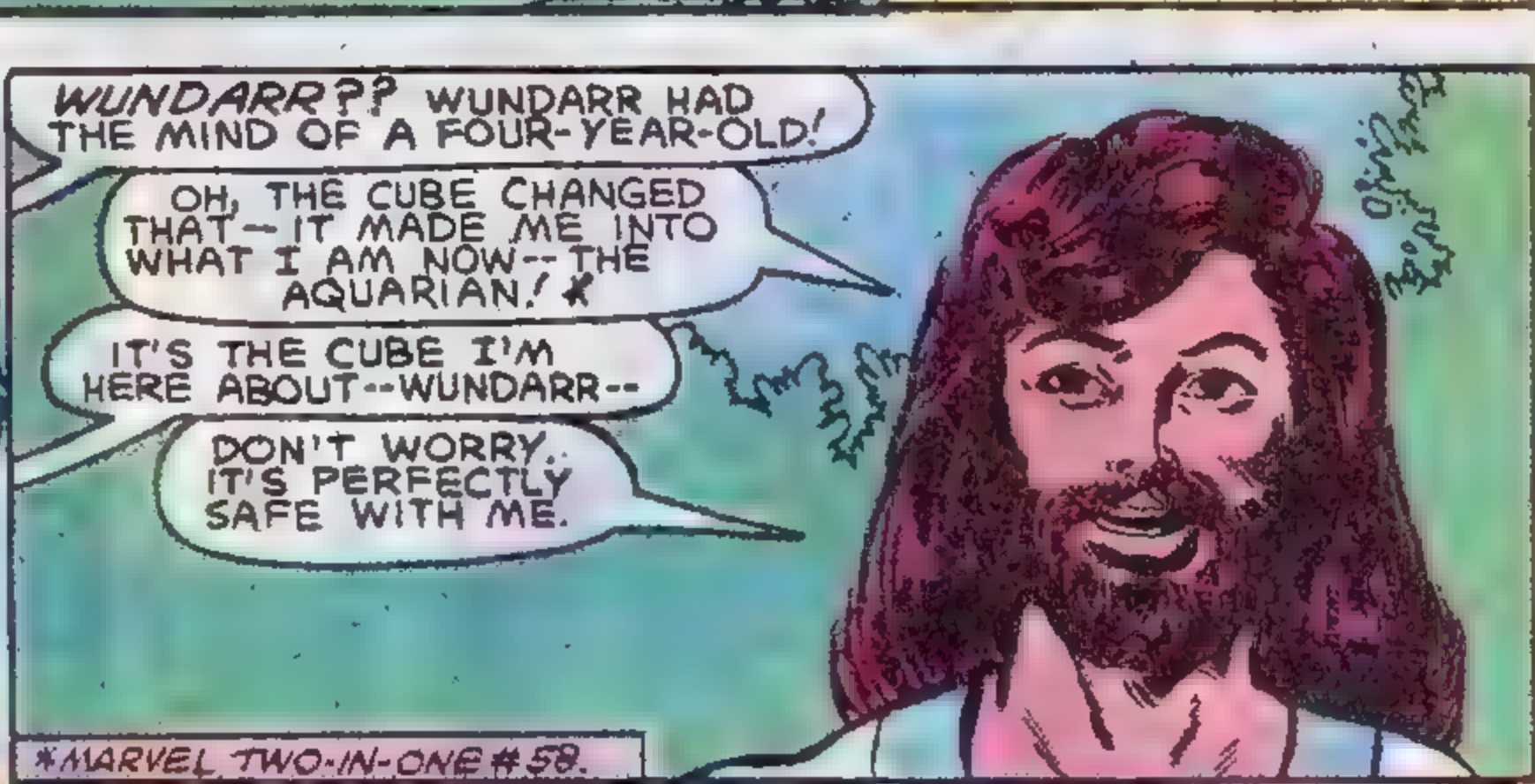
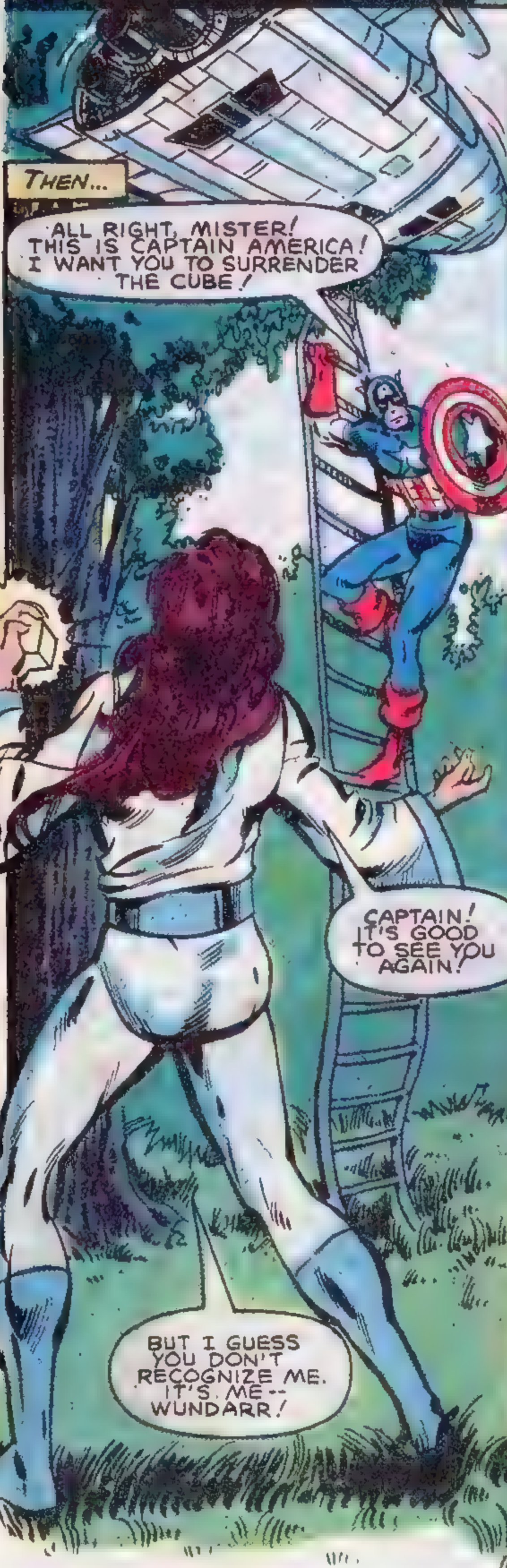
GIVE ME THE CUBE, WUNDARR!

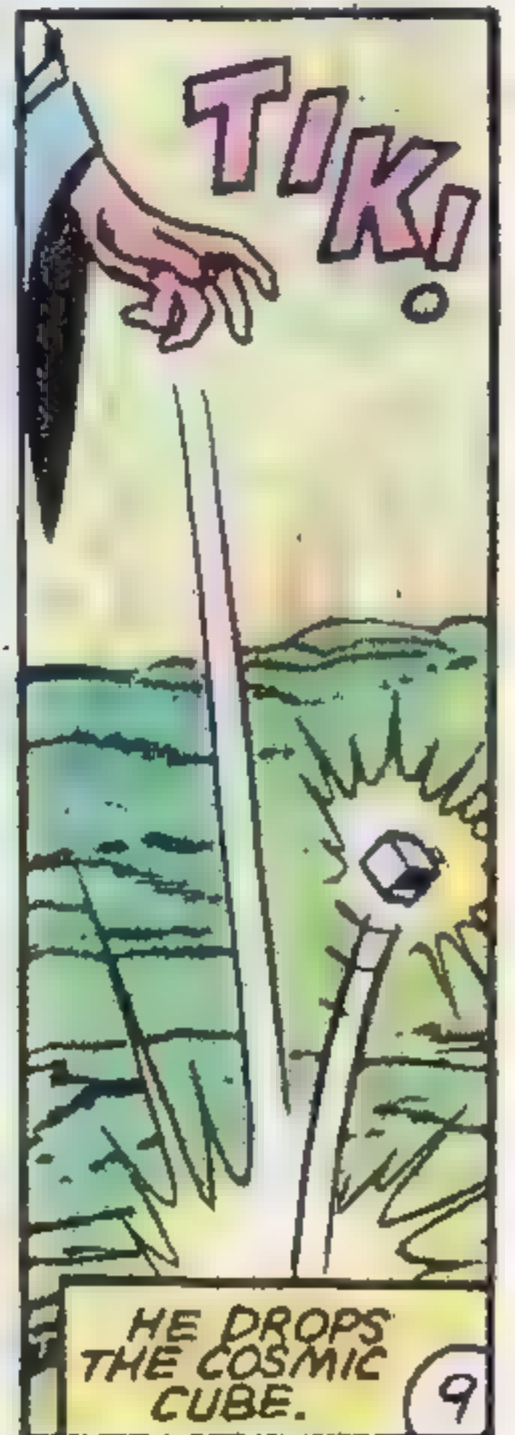
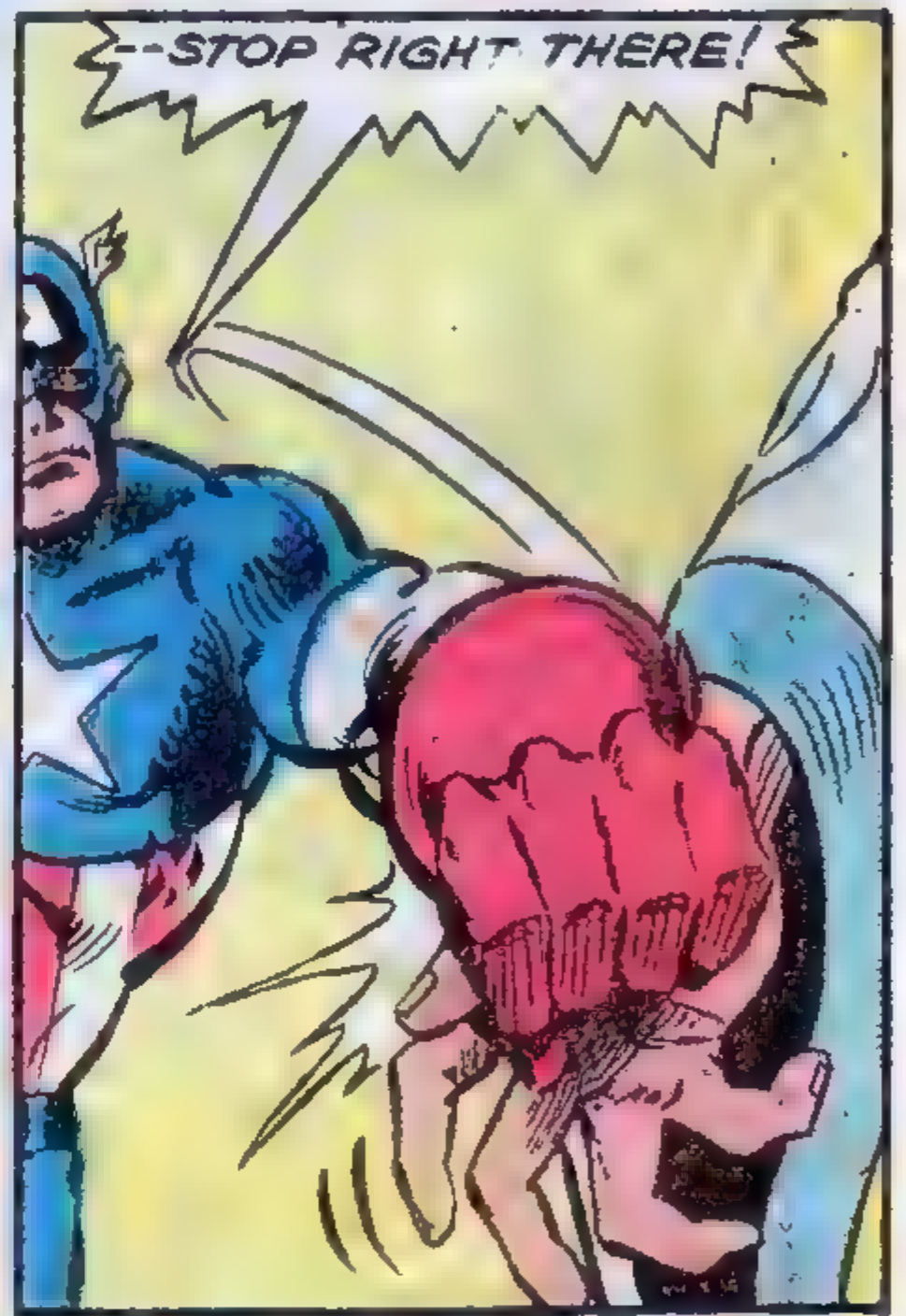
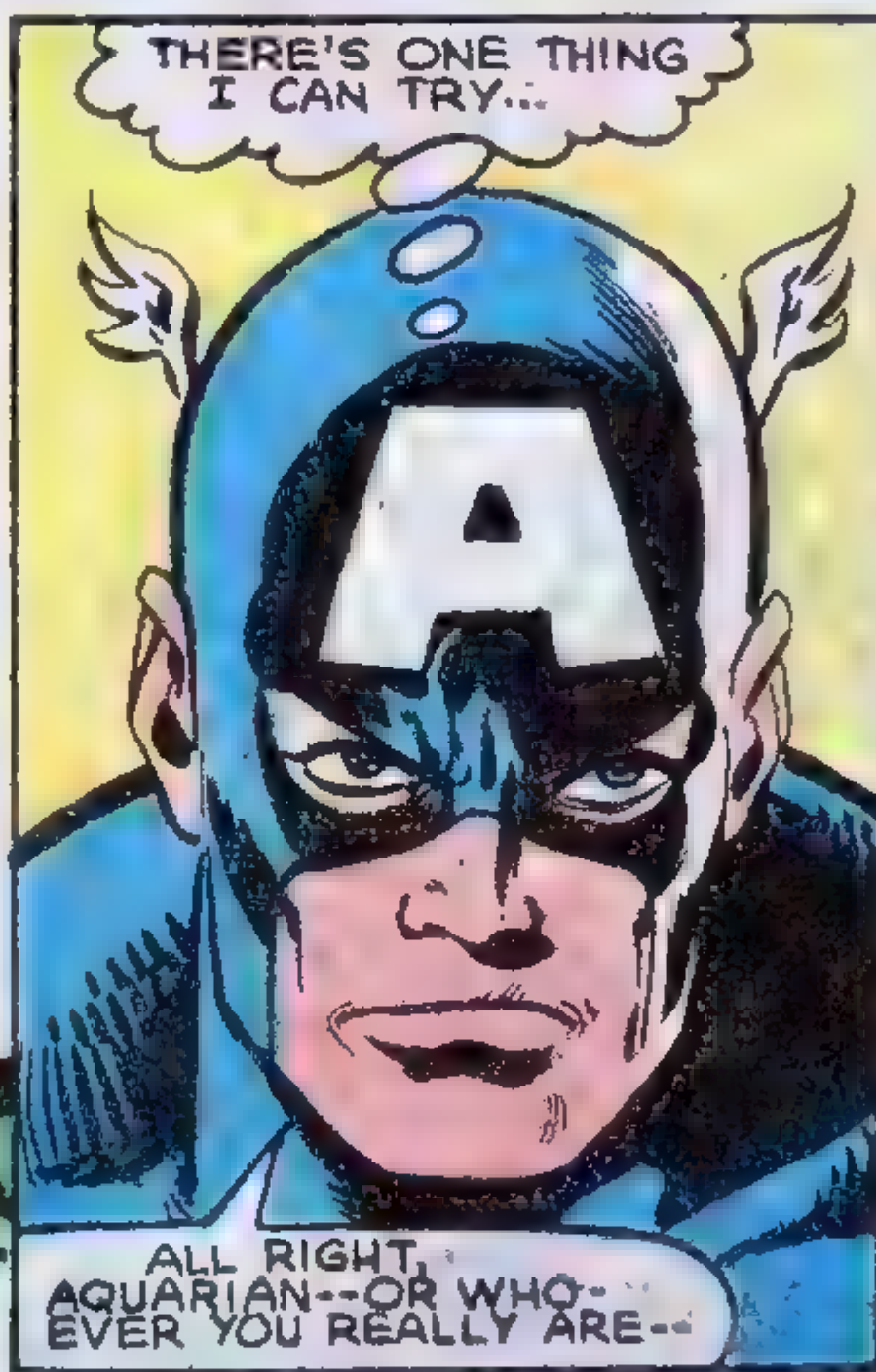
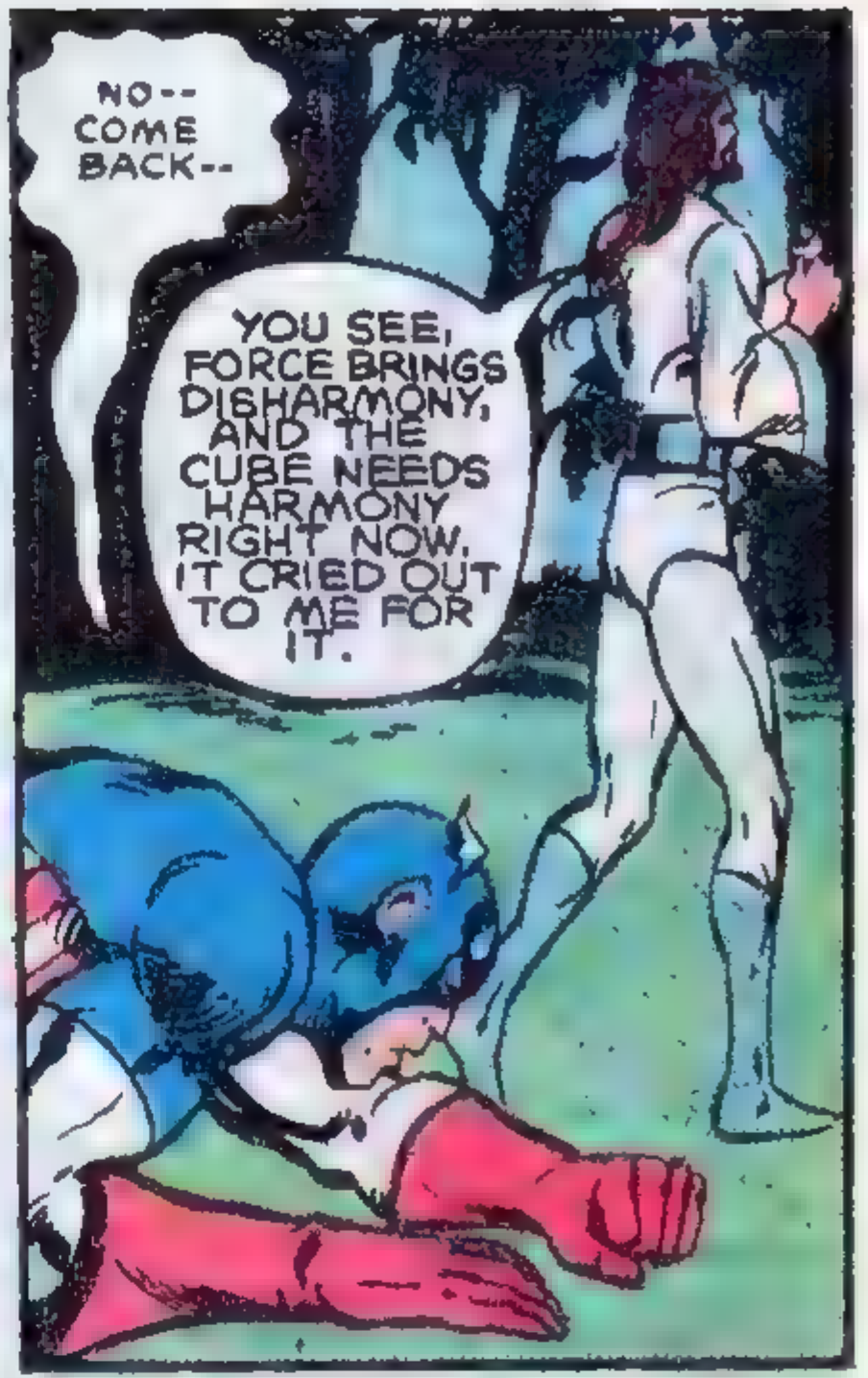
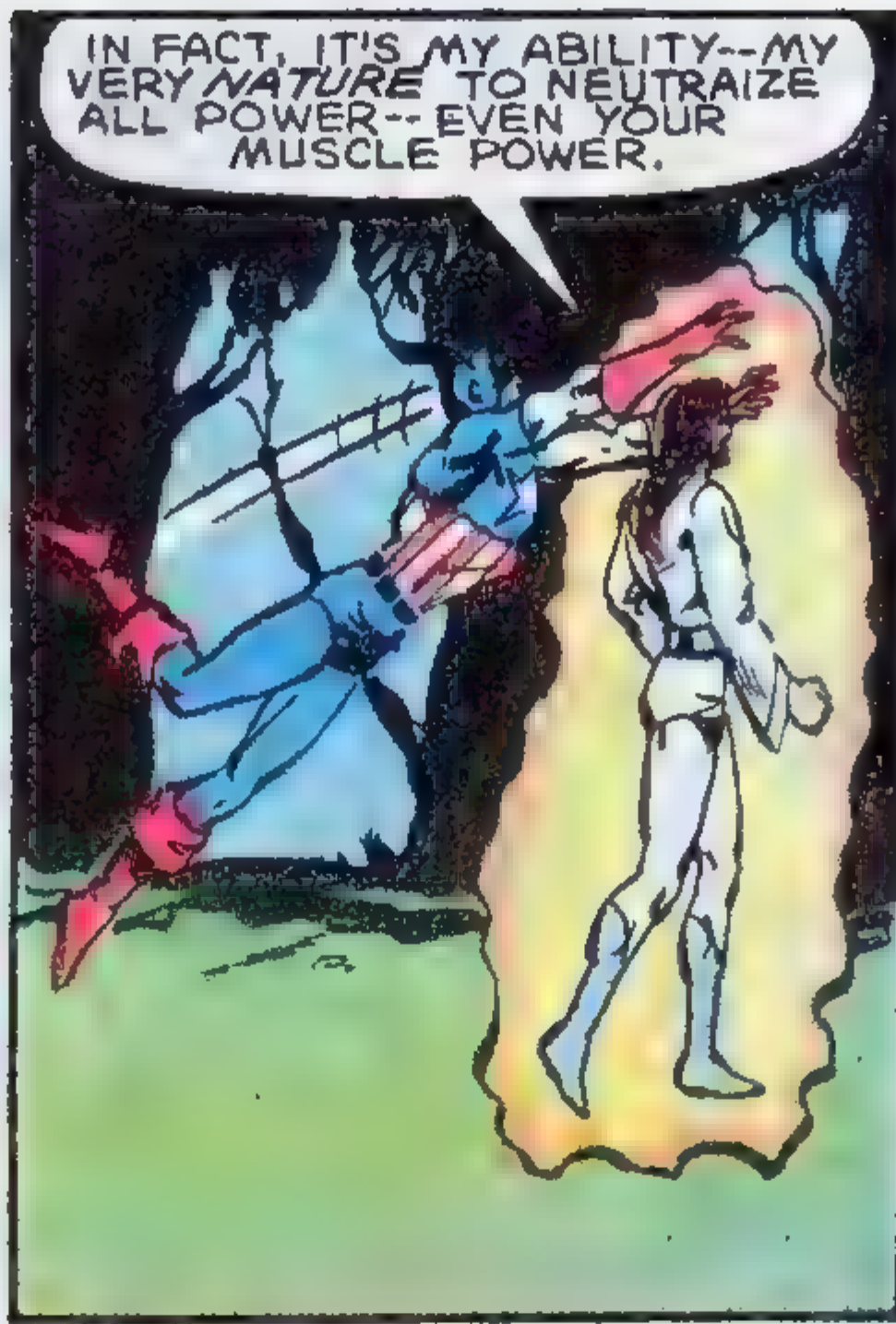
AQUARIAN. AND I TOLD YOU, I'LL SEE THAT IT'S SAFE.

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO TRUST YOUR WORD, 'AQUARIAN!' THE CUBE IS FAR TOO--

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO, CAP.

WHA--? MY SHIELD JUST STOPPED DEAD AND FELL!





PAIN IS A STRANGE DISTANT MEMORY-- AND A SHOCK-- TO THE AQUARIAN.

AND THINGS TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE!

THE CUBE--
IT'S BEEN
GRABBED BY
SOMETHING--!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH,
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

WE COULD NOT
BREAK THROUGH
THE YOUTH'S ENERGY-
DAMPING FIELD, SO
WE HOVERED HERE
WITH OUR CLOAKING
DEVICES ON--

AND SO
THE CUBE
IS OURS!
WE KNEW
WE COULD
COUNT
ON YOU!

--UNTIL YOU DID IT FOR US!

COULDN'T YOU HAVE LEFT
WELL ENOUGH ALONE?

I'M SORRY,
WUNDARR--BUT
THERE'S NO TIME
FOR REGRETS! WE'VE
GOT TO GO AFTER
THEM BEFORE THEY
USE THE CUBE!

SOMETHING STRANGE IS
HAPPENING TO THE CUBE,
CAP. IF THEY USE IT--
SOMETHING UNIMAGIN-
ABLY BAD COULD
HAPPEN.

I'VE
GOT TO SAVE
THE CUBE IN
MY OWN WAY.

SORRY,
AQUARIAN--

--BUT THIS IS
MY FLIGHT AS
WELL! COME ON--
WE'LL SEE THIS
THROUGH
TOGETHER!

THANK YOU FOR THE OFFER,
BUT NO. I HAVE MY OWN WAY
OF GETTING THINGS DONE.

MOMENTS LATER, WITH THE QUINJET OFF
AUTO-HOVER AND IN PURSUIT--

CAPTAIN AMERICA
TO AVENGERS! AVENGERS!
CAN YOU READ ME?

NO GOOD!
EVERYTHING'S
JAMMED!

UNSCRAMBLE THE FUN AND DISCOVER WHY EVERYONE'S SCRAMBLING FOR NEW PINK LEMONADE BUBBLE YUM.

Here's a game that's as much fun to play as Bubble Yum is to chew! Just unscramble these six mixed-up words. One letter to each square. (Answers below.)

FOST

--	--	--	--	--	--

SOTHOM

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

IYUJC

--	--	--	--	--	--

MYMYU

--	--	--	--	--	--

NIPK

--	--	--	--	--

LUBBESB

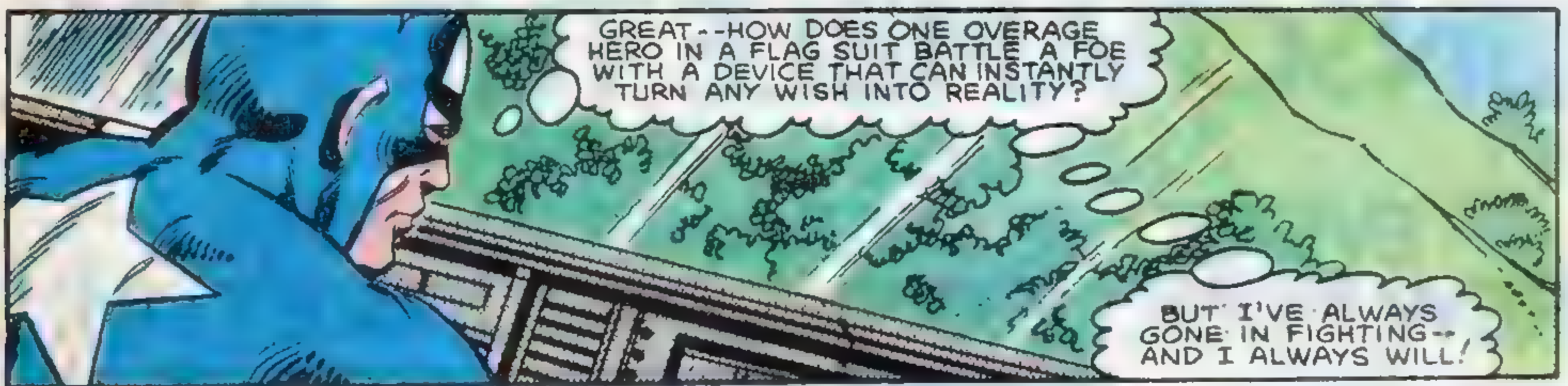
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Now unscramble the circled letters to discover the surprise word in this Bubble Yum cartoon.



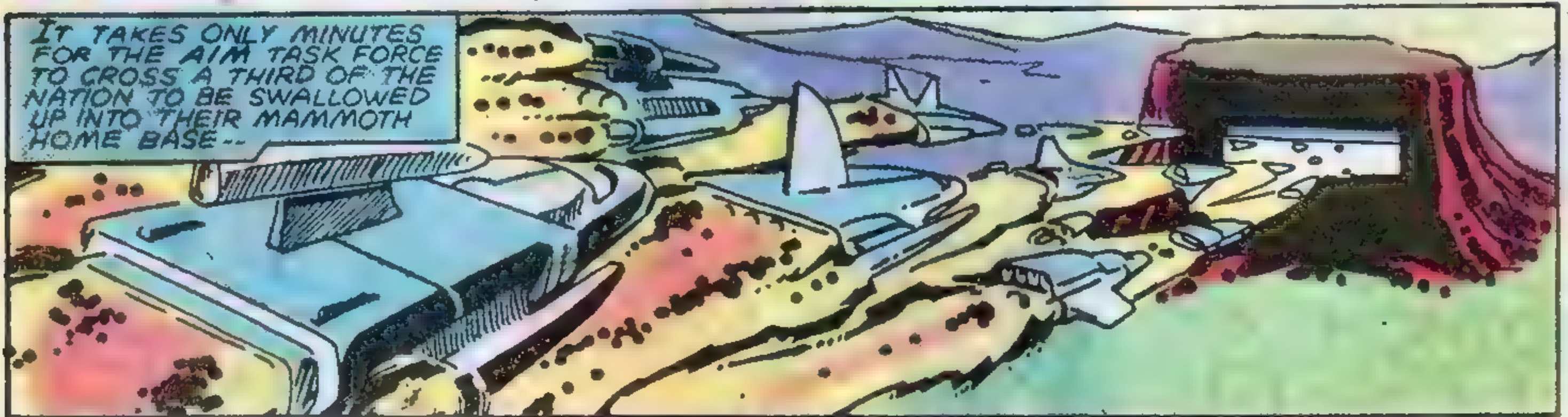
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ANSWERS: SOFT, SMOOTH, JUICY, YUMMY, PINK, BUBBLES. SURPRISE WORD: IT'S A M O U T H F U L OF YUM!

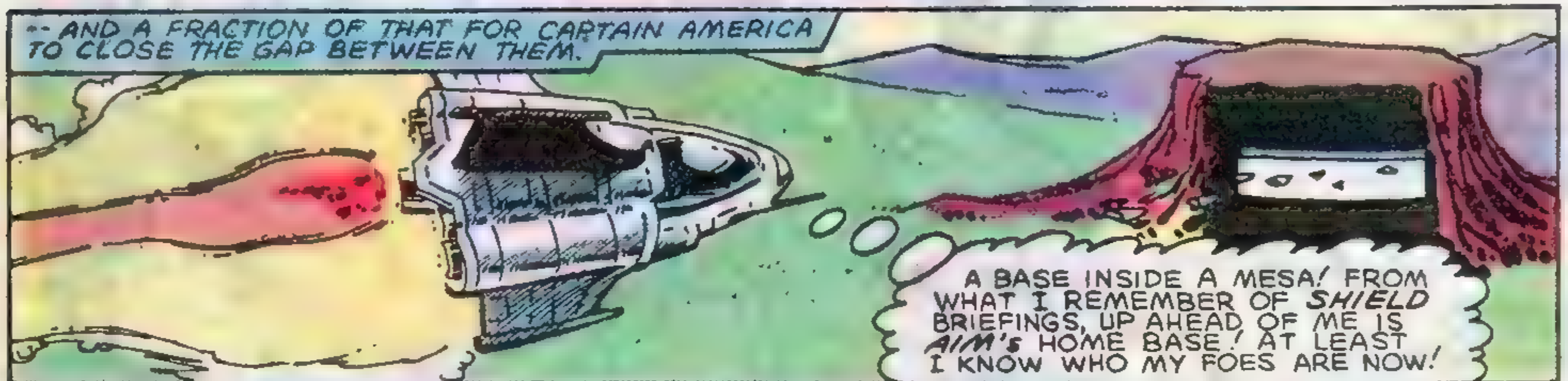


GREAT--HOW DOES ONE OVERAGE HERO IN A FLAG SUIT BATTLE A FOE WITH A DEVICE THAT CAN INSTANTLY TURN ANY WISH INTO REALITY?

BUT I'VE ALWAYS GONE IN FIGHTING-- AND I ALWAYS WILL!

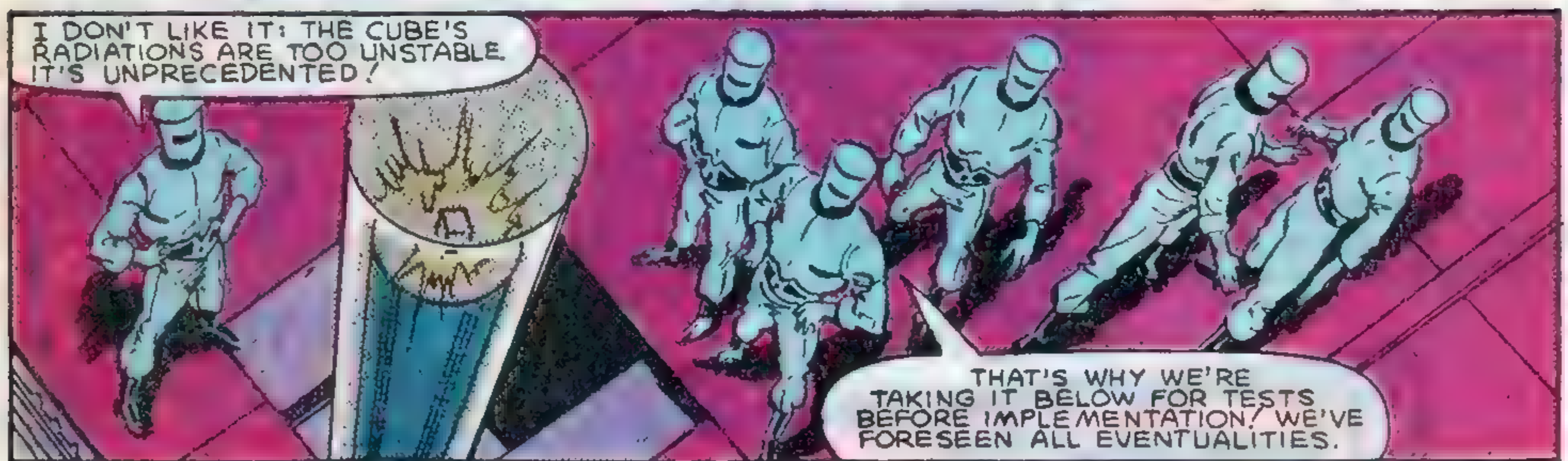


IT TAKES ONLY MINUTES FOR THE AIM TASK FORCE TO CROSS A THIRD OF THE NATION TO BE SWALLOWED UP INTO THEIR MAMMOTH HOME BASE--



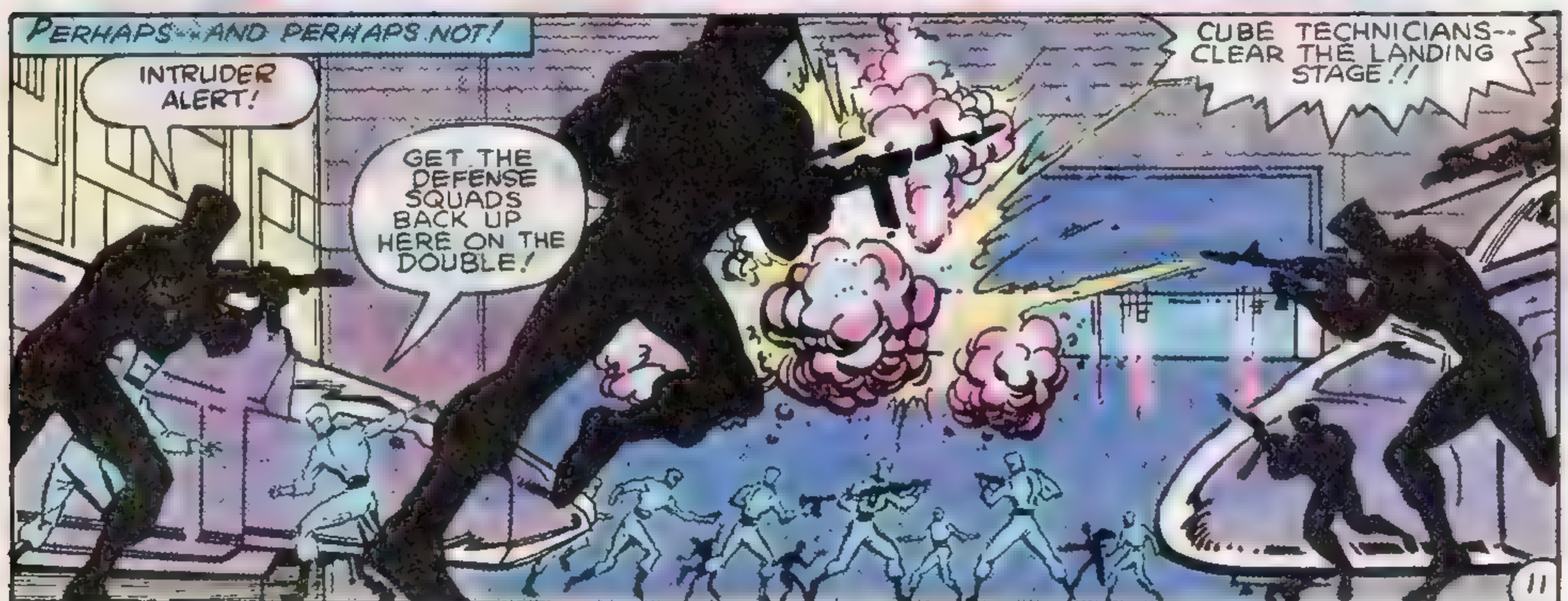
-- AND A FRACTION OF THAT FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THEM.

A BASE INSIDE A MESA! FROM WHAT I REMEMBER OF SHIELD BRIEFINGS, UP AHEAD OF ME IS AIM'S HOME BASE! AT LEAST I KNOW WHO MY FOES ARE NOW!



I DON'T LIKE IT: THE CUBE'S RADIATIONS ARE TOO UNSTABLE. IT'S UNPRECEDENTED!

THAT'S WHY WE'RE TAKING IT BELOW FOR TESTS BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION! WE'VE FORESEEN ALL EVENTUALITIES.

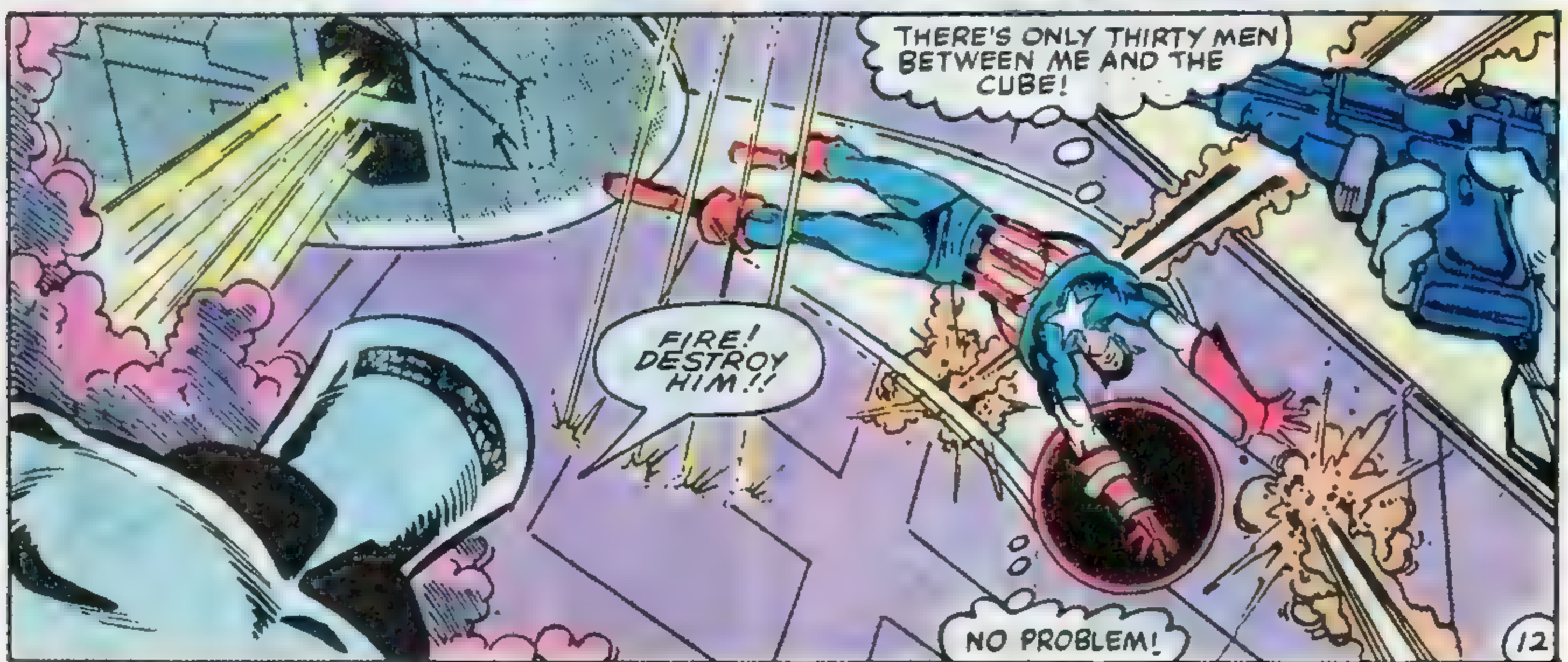
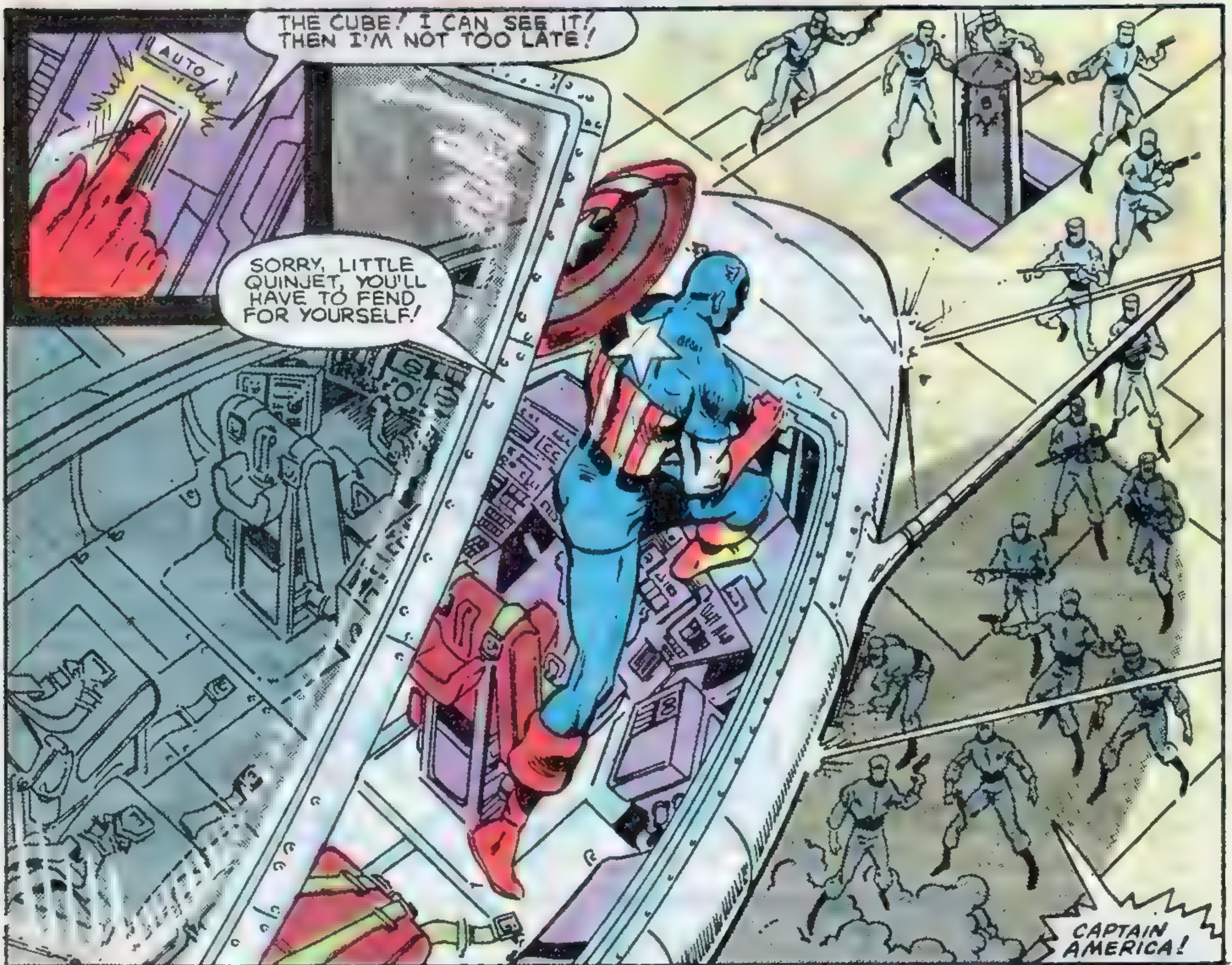
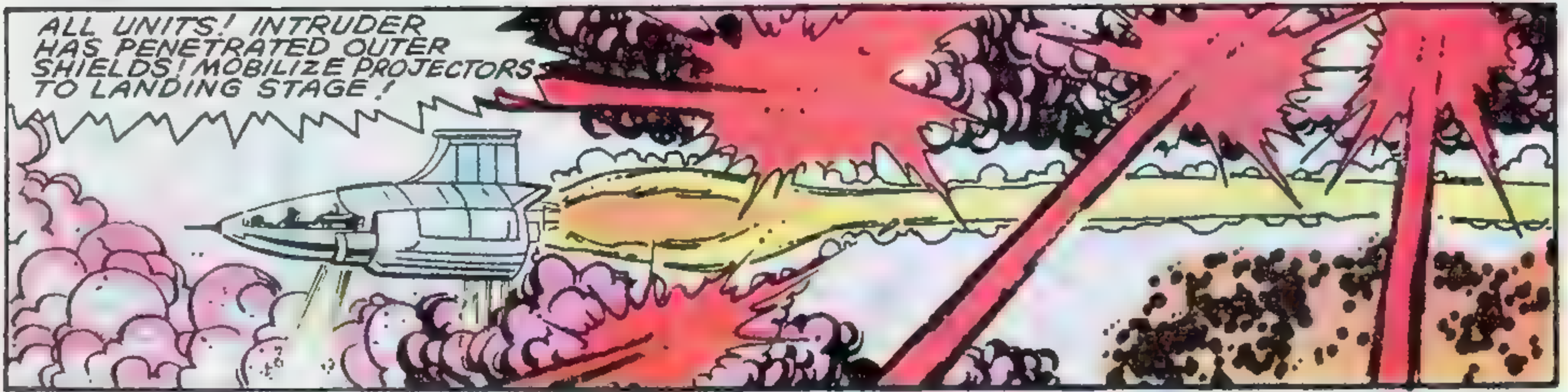


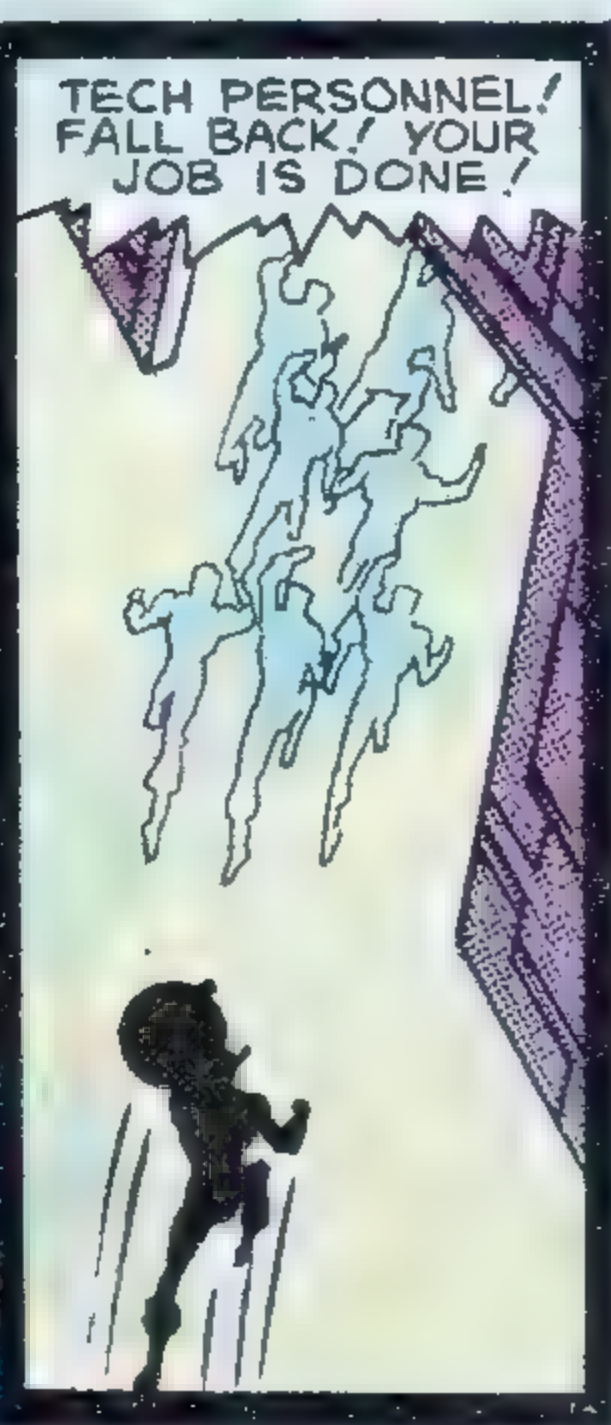
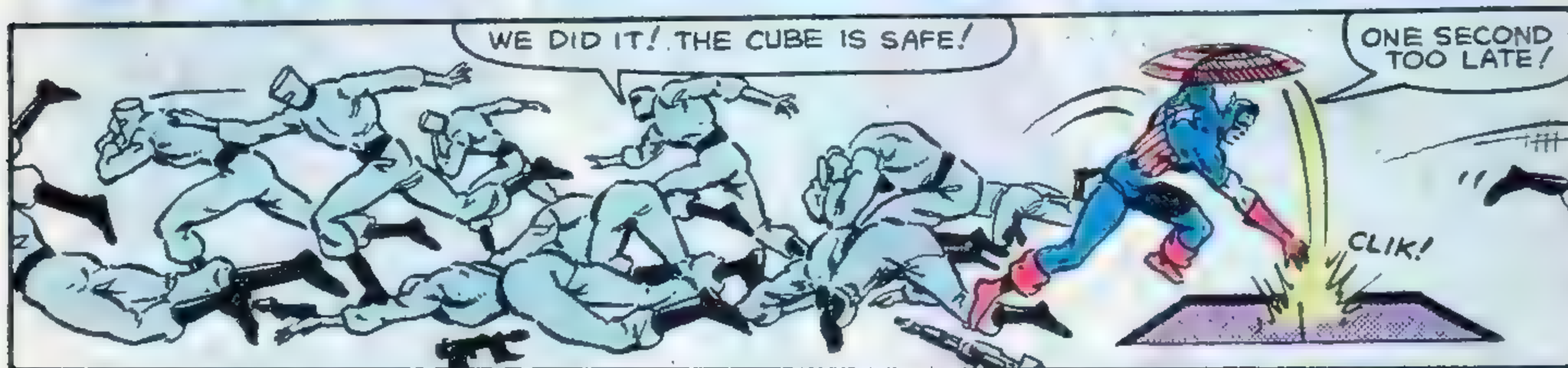
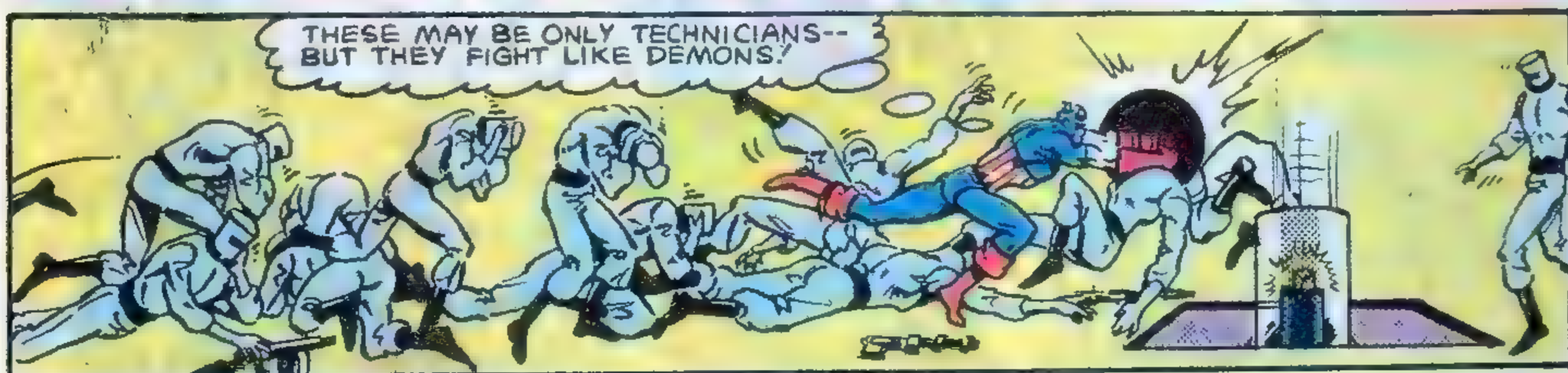
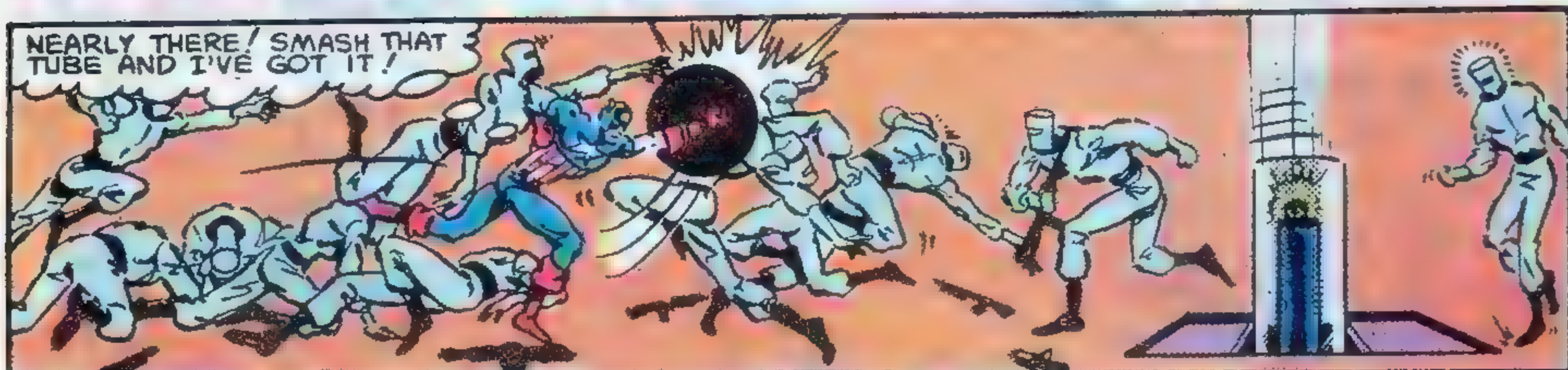
PERHAPS--AND PERHAPS NOT!

INTRUDER ALERT!

GET THE DEFENSE SQUADS BACK UP HERE ON THE DOUBLE!

CUBE TECHNICIANS-- CLEAR THE LANDING STAGE!!





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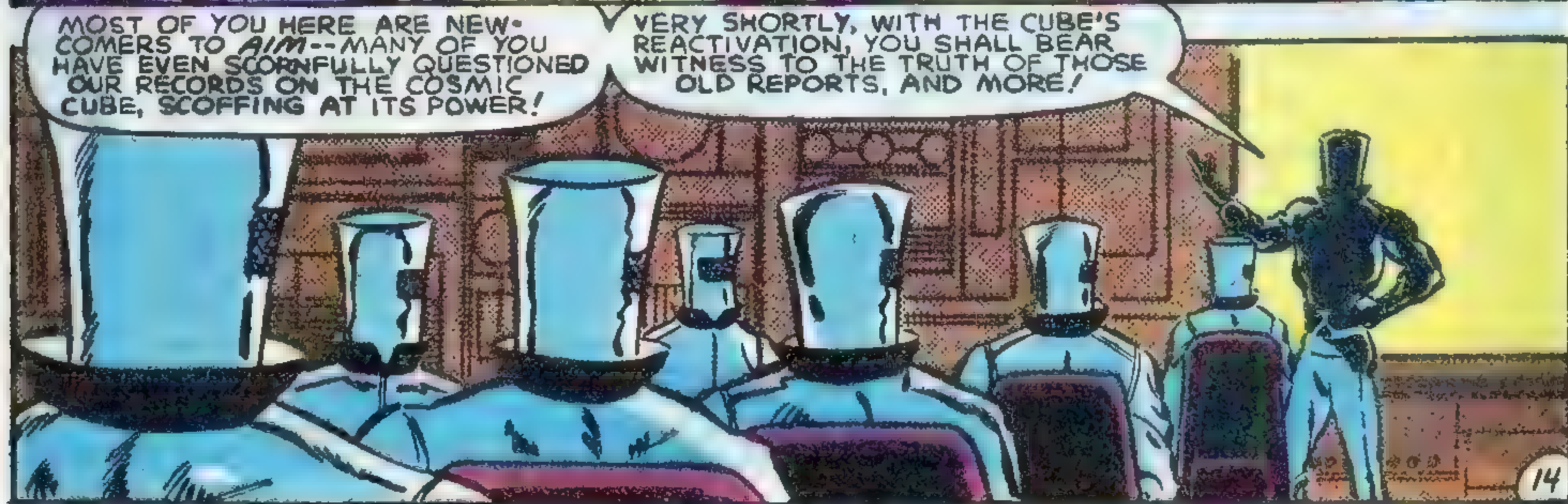
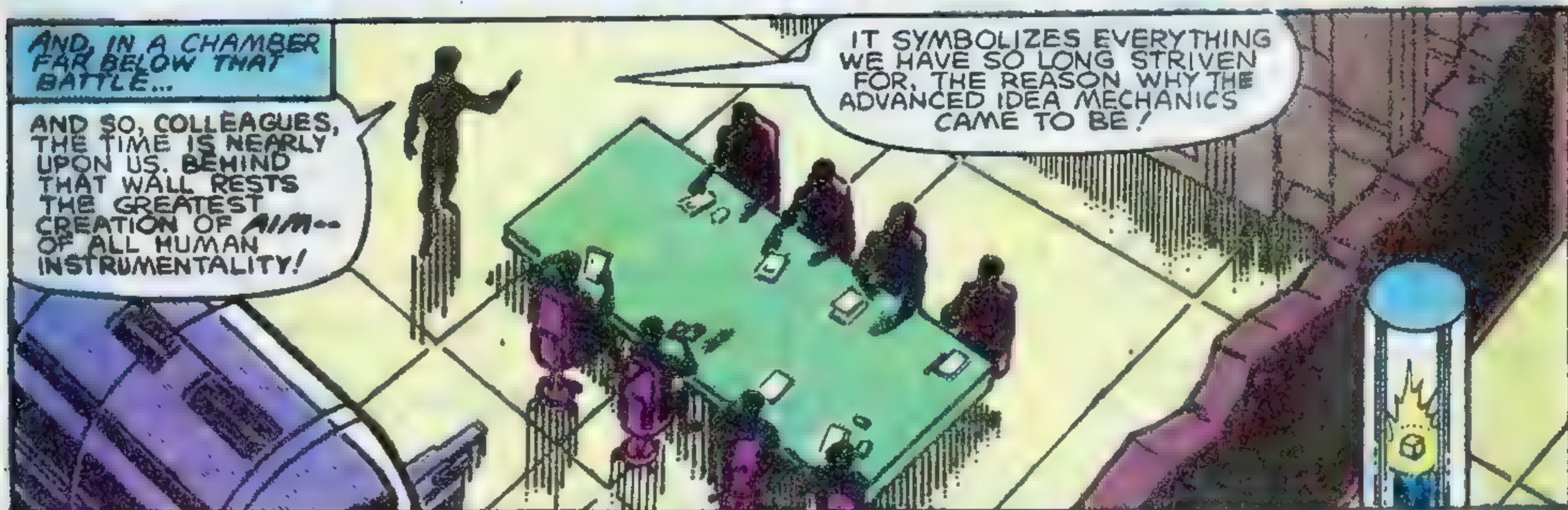
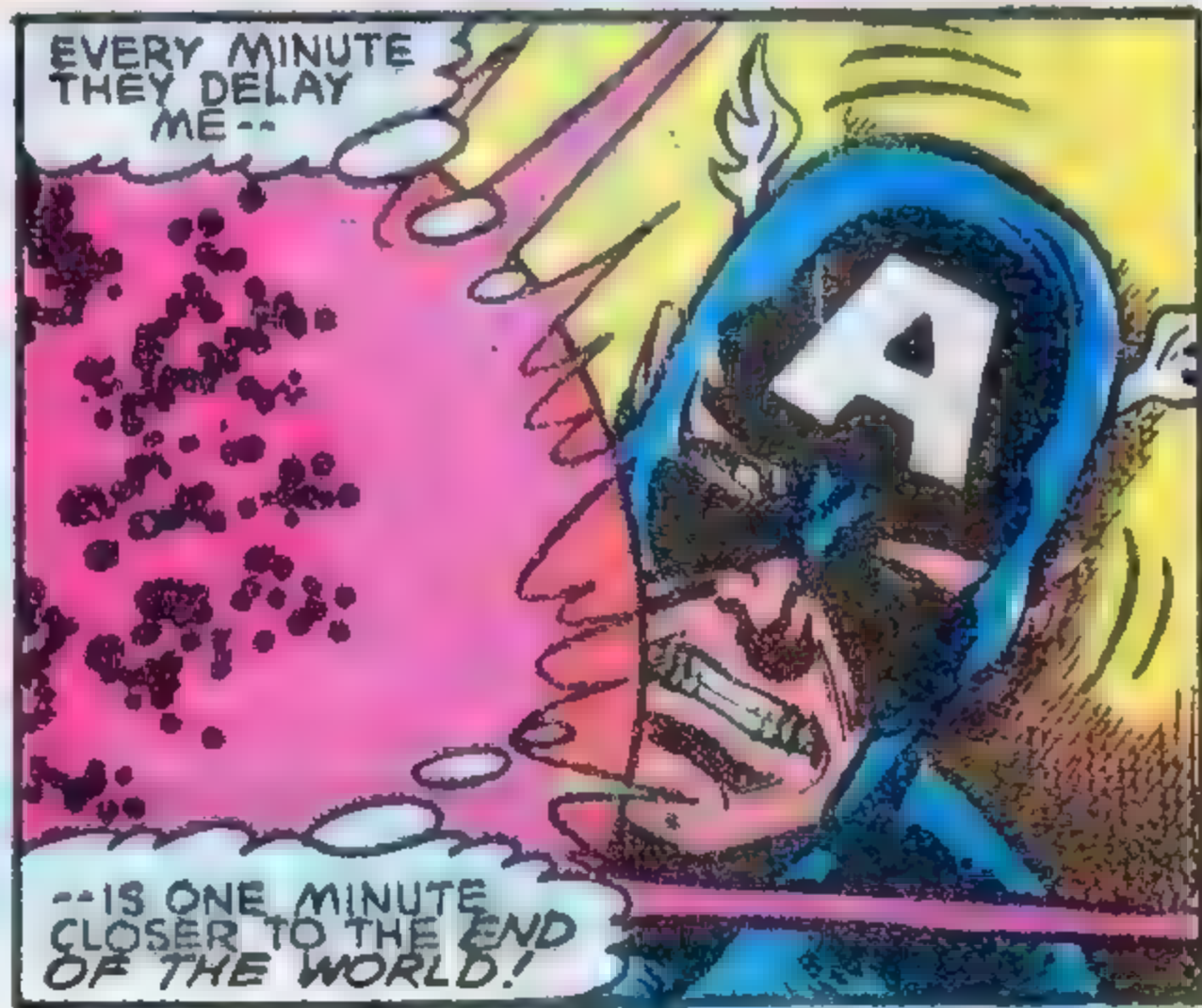
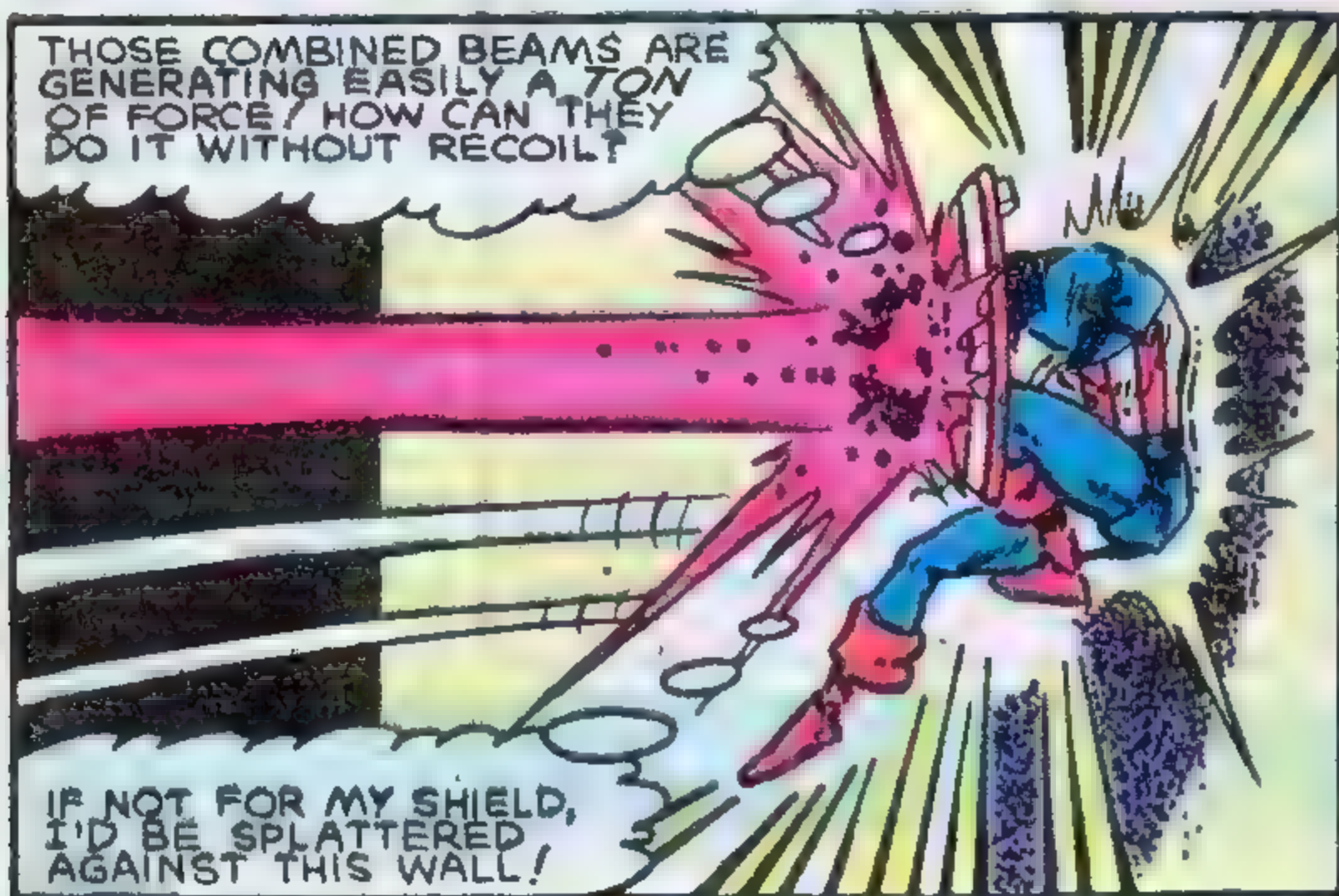
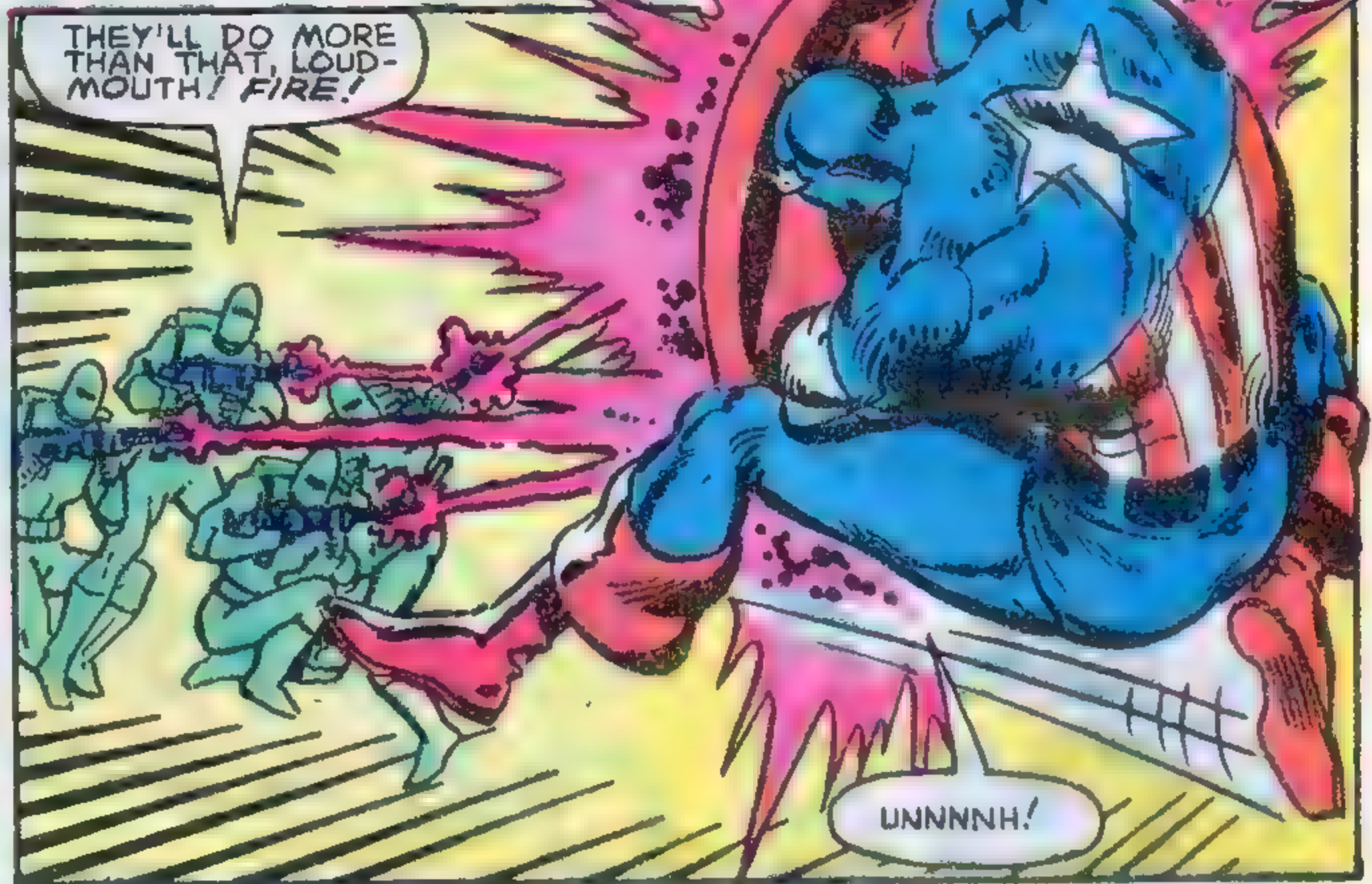
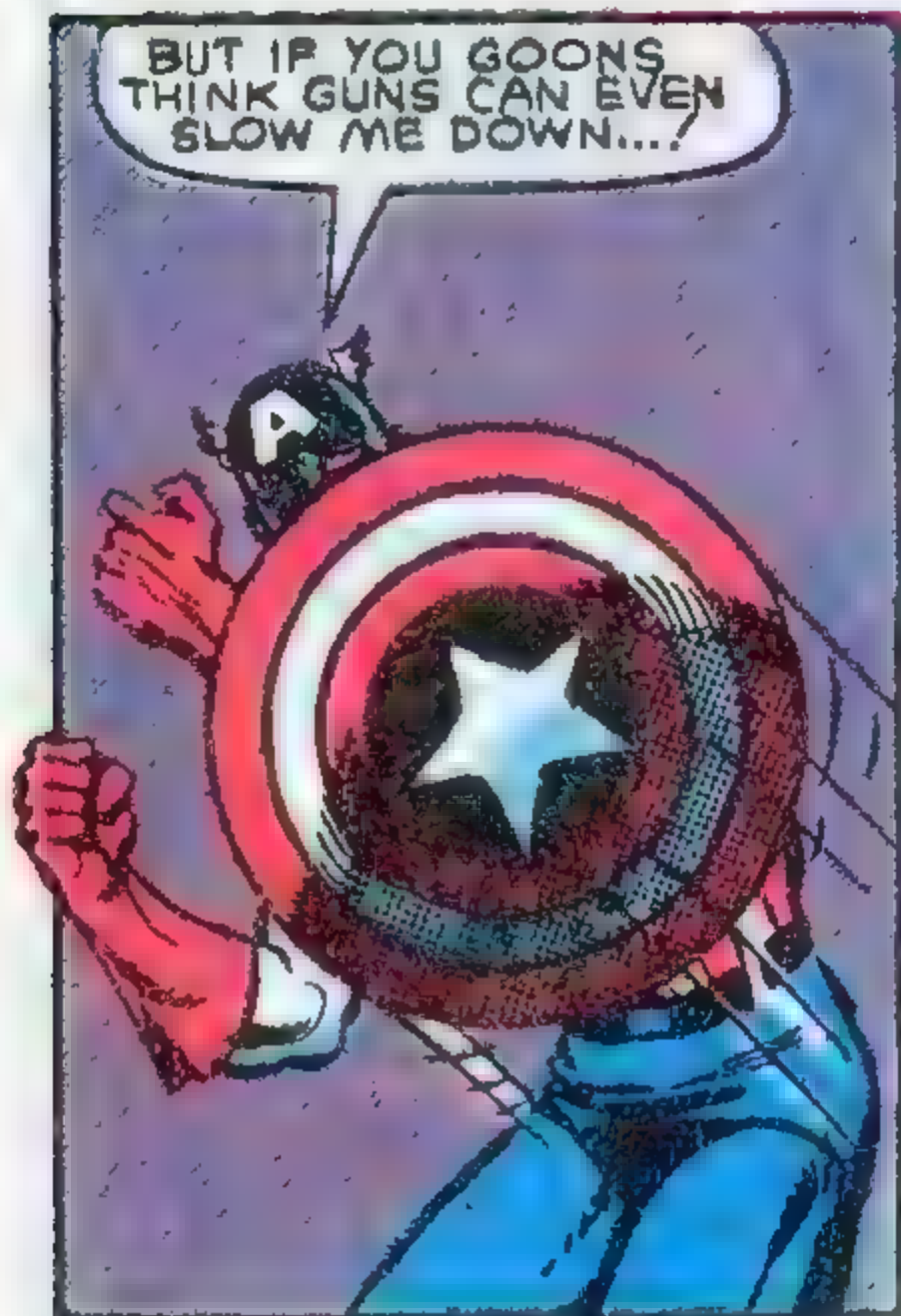
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WHEN IT BEGAN, I WAS ONLY **BERNARD WORRELL**, PROMISING PHYSICS GRAD STUDENT WITH A HEAD FULL OF EQUATIONS AND IDEALS!

"I FOLLOWED MY MENTOR, DR. GEORGE CLINTON, INTO **AIM** AT ITS FOUNDING, HOPING TO REMAKE THE WORLD IN SCIENCE'S IMAGE."

"IT WAS TO THIS END THAT WE CONSTRUCTED OUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE-- **MODOC**!"

"IN THOSE DAYS, THE ACRONYM MEANT **MENTAL ORGANISM**, DESIGNED ONLY FOR COMPUTATION!"

"THE DAY CAME WHEN, THROUGH **MODOC**, WE WERE SEEKING TO PUNCH A HOLE IN THE FABRIC OF SPACE-TIME ITSELF! AFTER MANY FALSE STARTS, WE SUCCEEDED IN FORMING A **META-SINGULARITY--A GREY HOLE!**"

"THEN, THE UNFORESEEABLE OCCURRED! EVEN AS THE HOLE OPENED, **SOMETHING--SOME X-ELEMENT--CAME THROUGH THE HOLE!**"

"BY COLLAPSING OUR **FORCE-SCREENS**, WE SUCCEEDED IN TRAPPING THE UNKNOWN WITHIN A PERFECT **CUBE OF FORCE--**"

"--AND WITH INFINITE CARE, WE BEGAN TO PROBE AND TEST THE NATURE OF WHAT WE HAD RECEIVED."

"OUR INVESTIGATIONS WERE STILL ONLY TENTATIVE--AND THE CUBE WAS SETTLING, CHANGING, DEVELOPING DAY BY DAY AS WELL--WHEN IT FELL FROM OUR GRASP!"

"WE HAD MADE AN UNWISE ALLIANCE WITH THE NAZI WAR CRIMINAL, THE **RED SKULL**, AND BY DEVIOUS MEANS HE STOLE THE CUBE FROM US!"

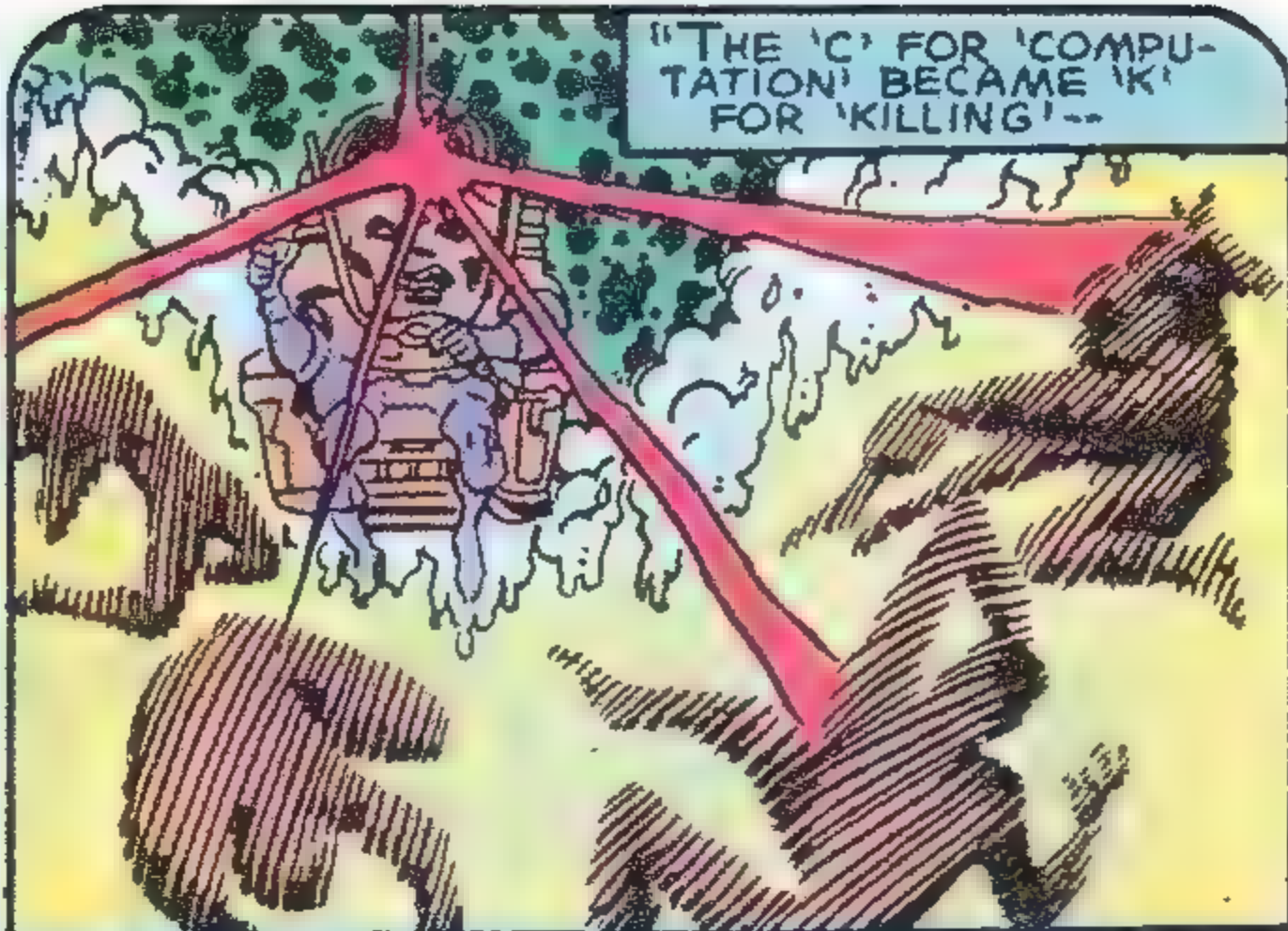
"BUT, THOUGH HE HAD READ OUR REPORTS OF THE CUBE'S NEAR INFINITE POWER TO GRANT DESIRES, THE SKULL'S SMALL MIND COULD ONLY COME UP WITH CRUDE NAZI DAYDREAMS!"

"CAPTAIN AMERICA, HOPELESSLY OUTMATCHED IN POWER, DEFEATED HIM SIMPLY BY OUTTHINKING HIM!"

"BUT MEANWHILE, THE STRAIN OF THE CUBE INCIDENT HAD WARPED THE MIND OF MODOC HIDEOUSLY!"



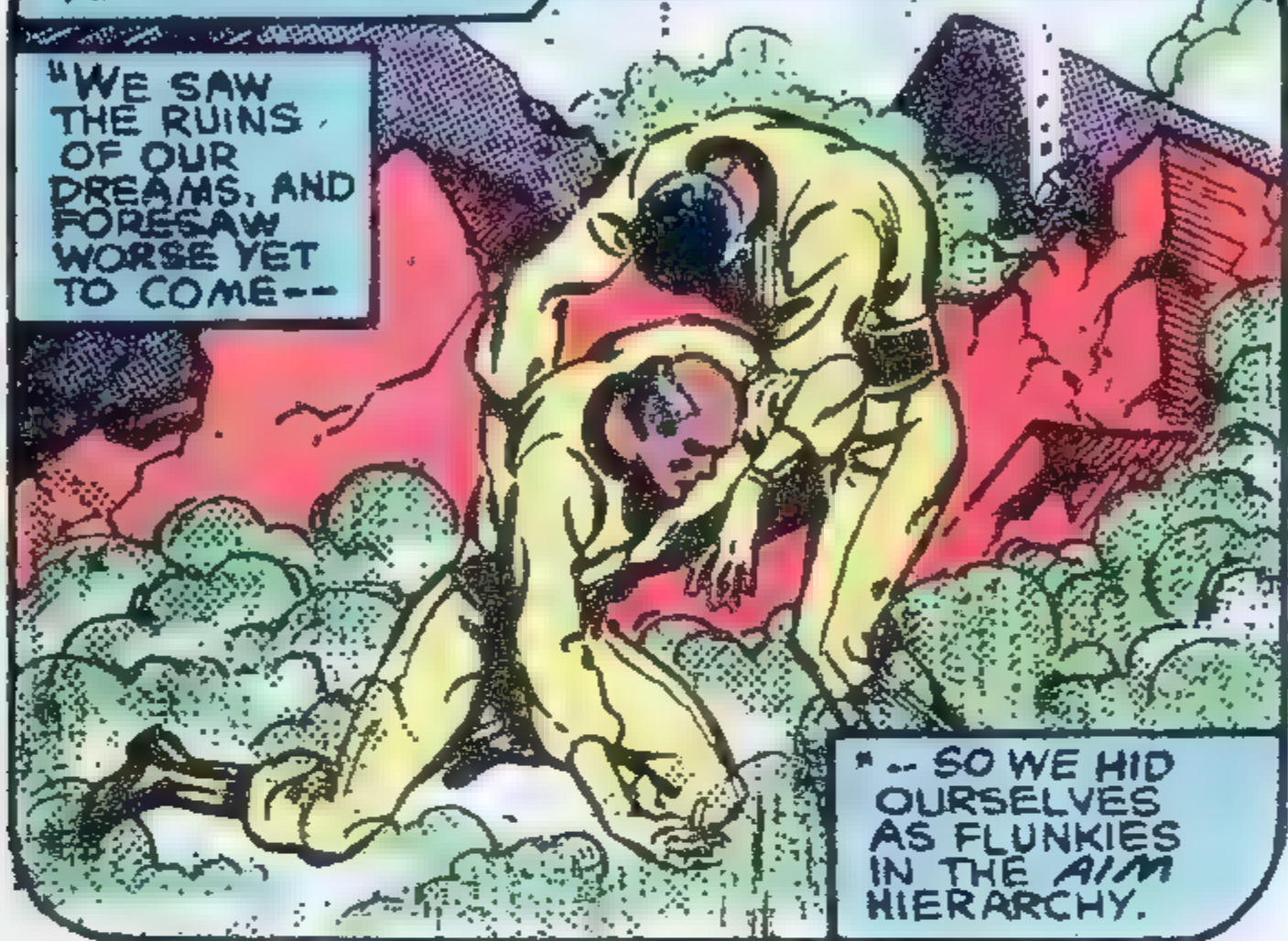
"THE 'C' FOR 'COMPUTATION' BECAME 'K' FOR 'KILLING'--"



"--AS, IN ONE SAVAGE BLOW, HE ASSASSINATED THE RULING COMMITTEE OF AIM AND SET HIMSELF UP IN ITS STEAD!"

"OF ALL THE FOUNDERS, ONLY DR. CLINTON AND I ESCAPED."

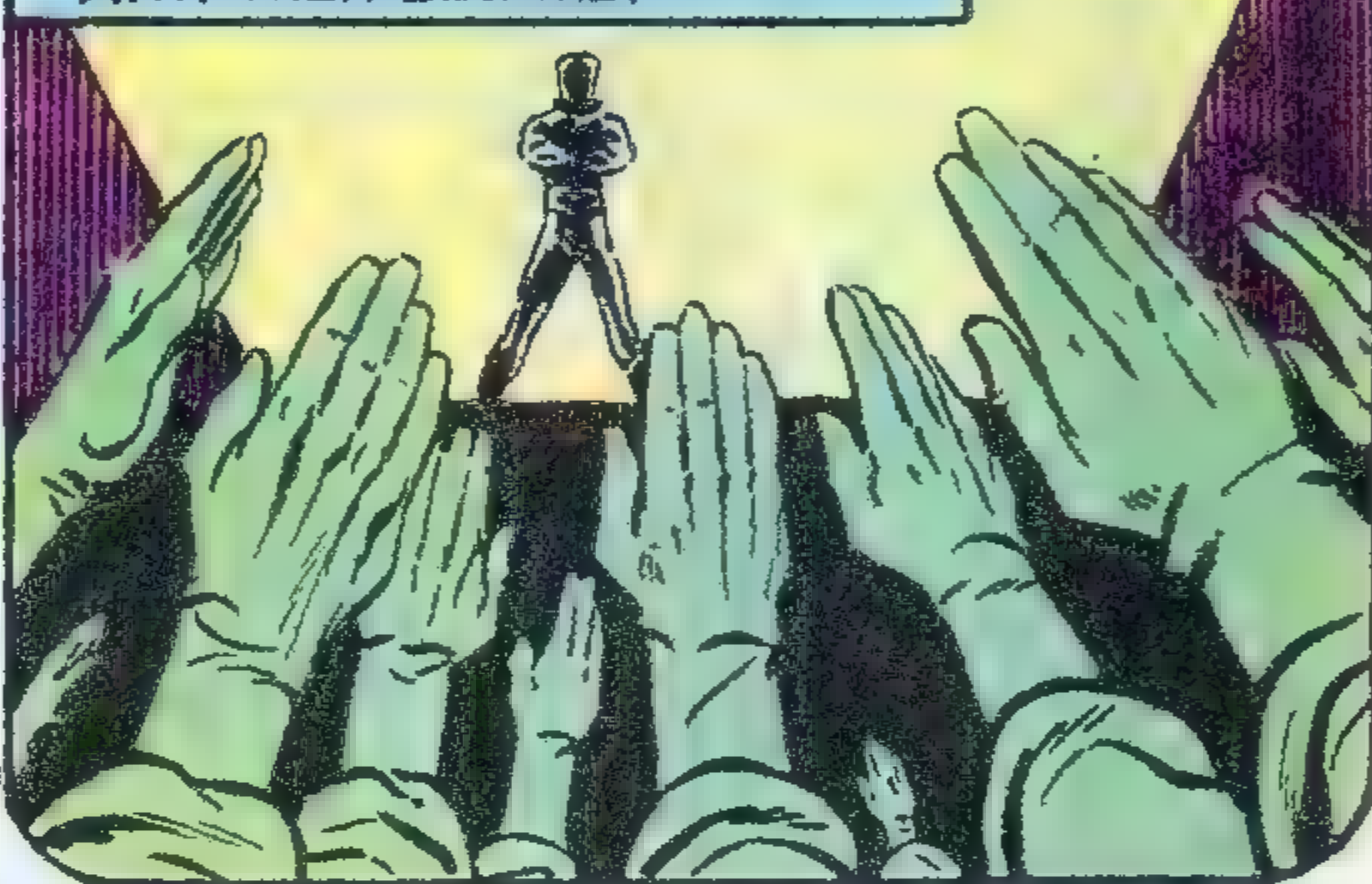
"WE SAW THE RUINS OF OUR DREAMS, AND FORESAW WORSE YET TO COME--"



"--SO WE HID OURSELVES AS FLUNKIES IN THE AIM HIERARCHY."

"EVEN THOUGH WE HAD NEVER BALKED ALIGNING OURSELVES WITH ENTITIES SUCH AS HYDRA AND THE SKULL, THAT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT AIM THEN BECAME!"

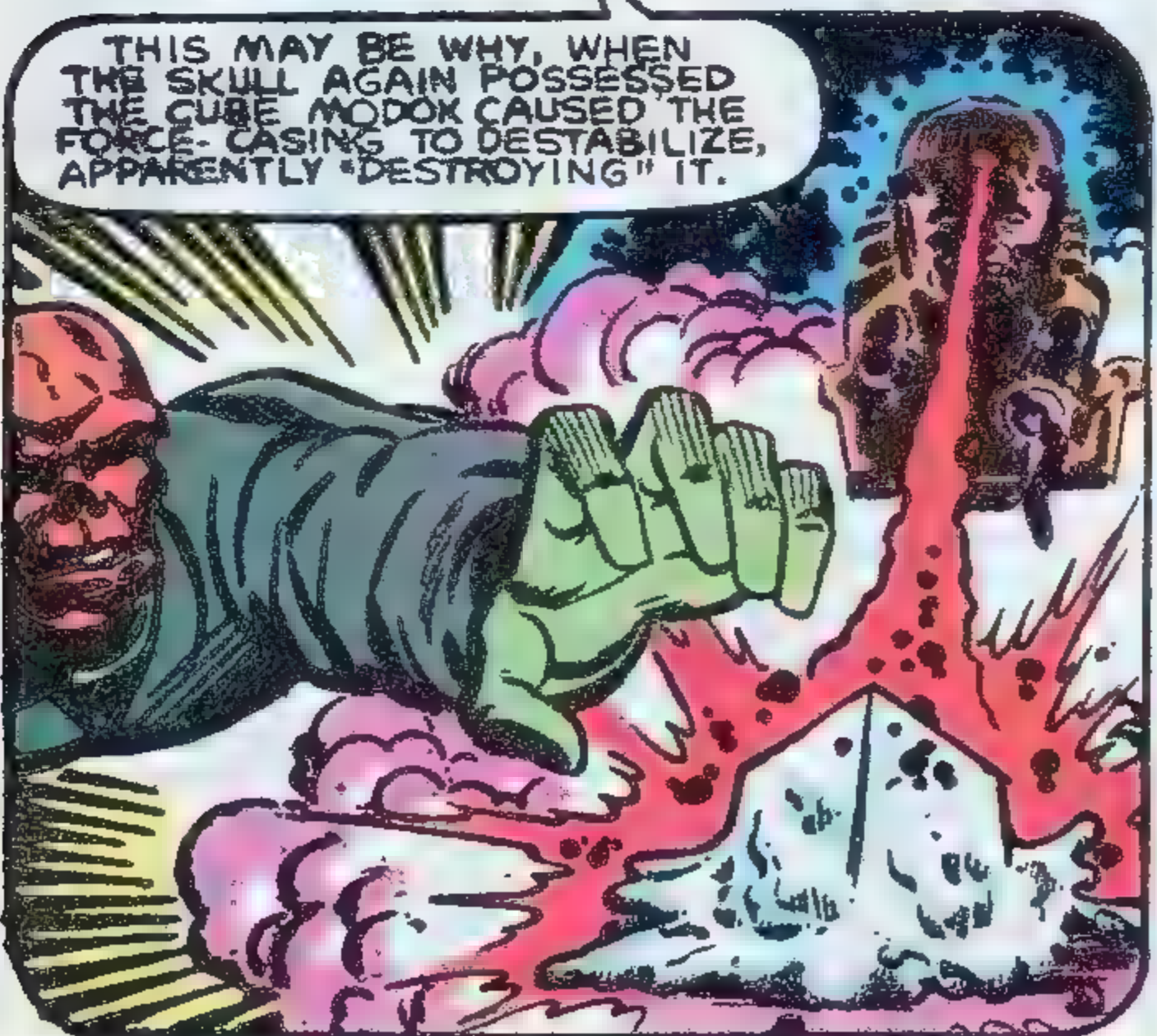
"AND SO WE BIDED OUR TIME."



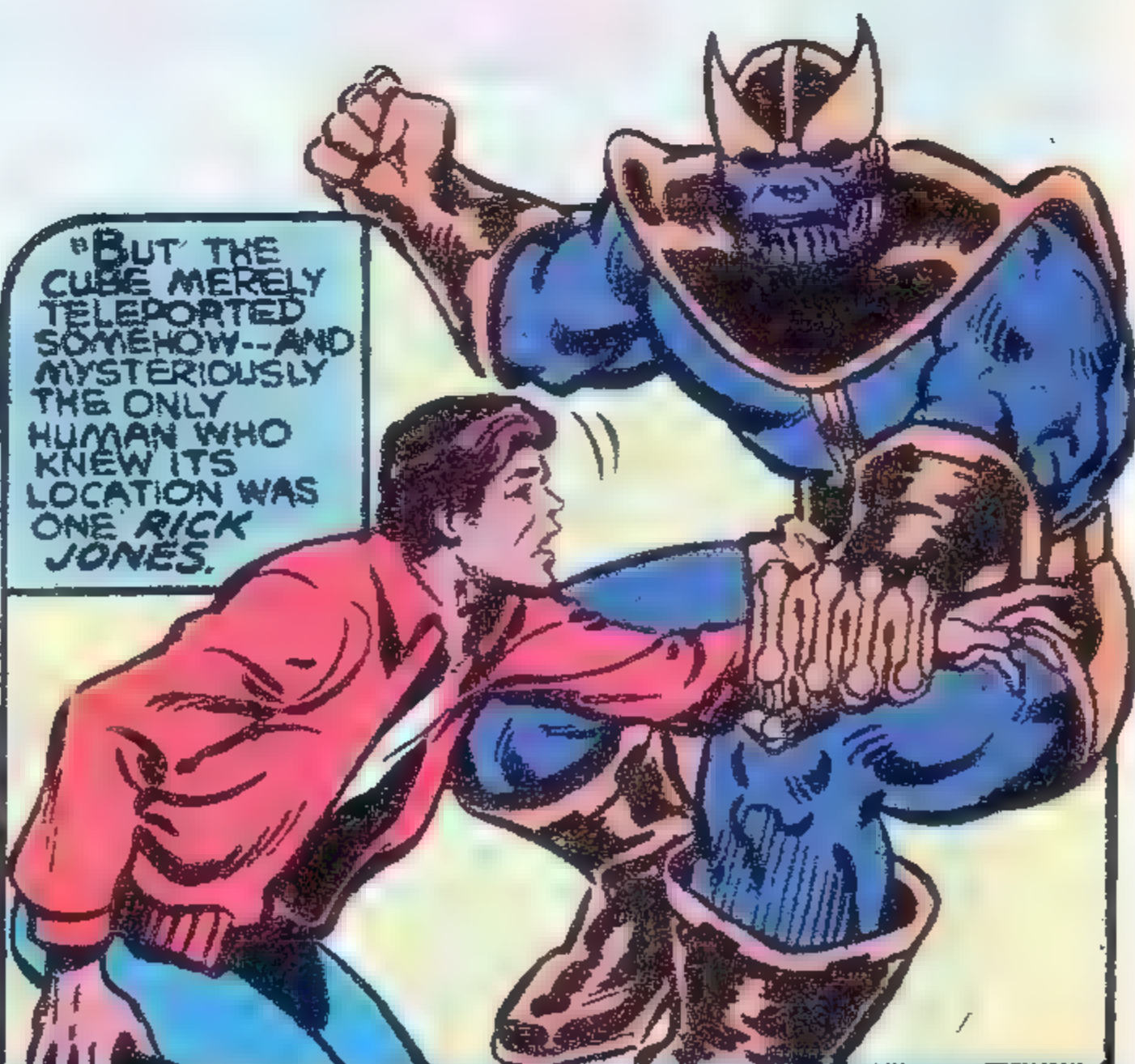
THE CUBE PASSED OUT OF OUR DIRECT KNOWLEDGE THEN--THOUGH MODOK KNEW OF IT. WE DON'T KNOW WHY MODOK NEVER SOUGHT TO USE THE CUBE--EXCEPT THAT PERHAPS ITS BIRTH LEFT HIM WITH AN IRRATIONAL HATRED OF IT.



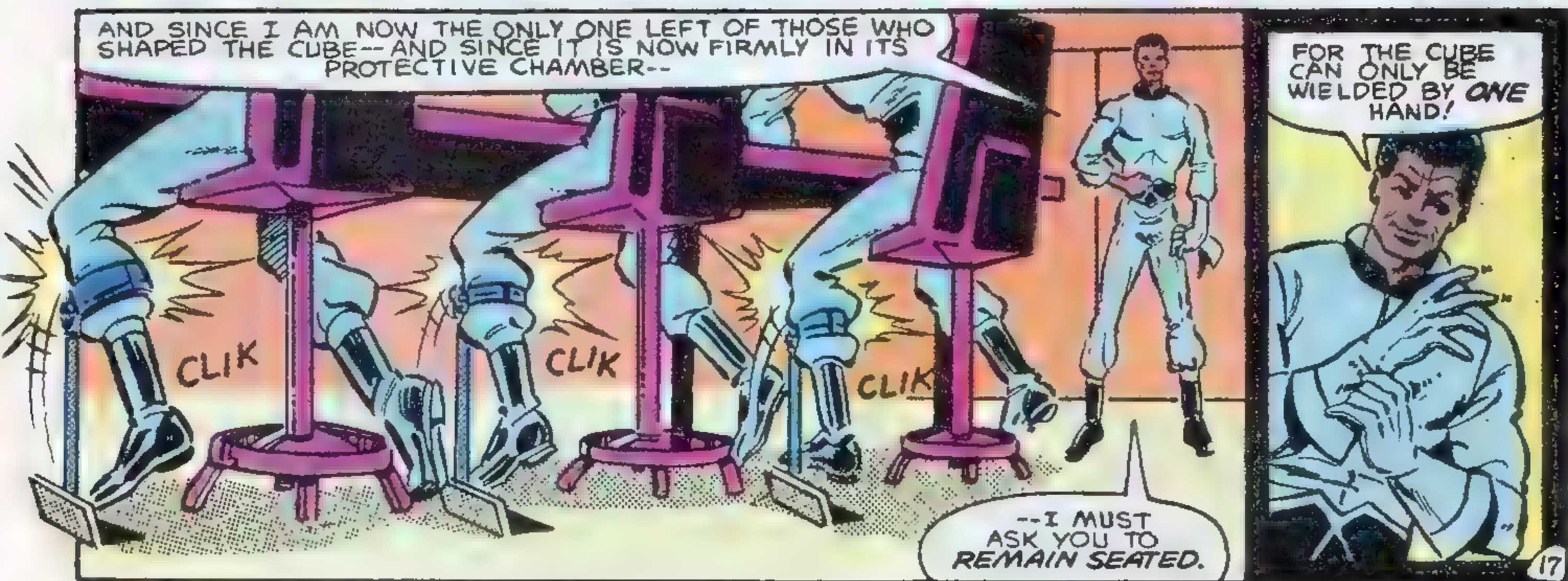
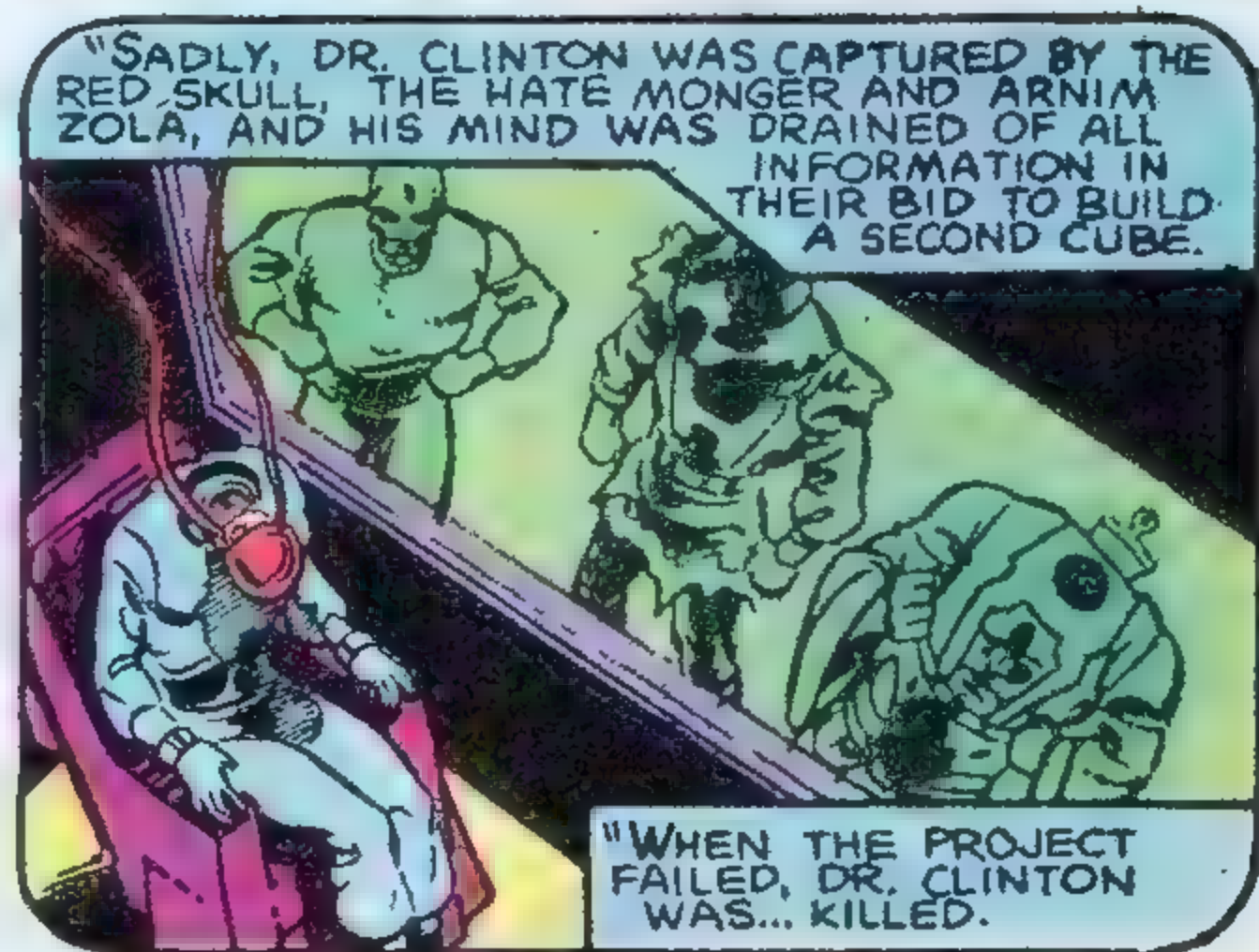
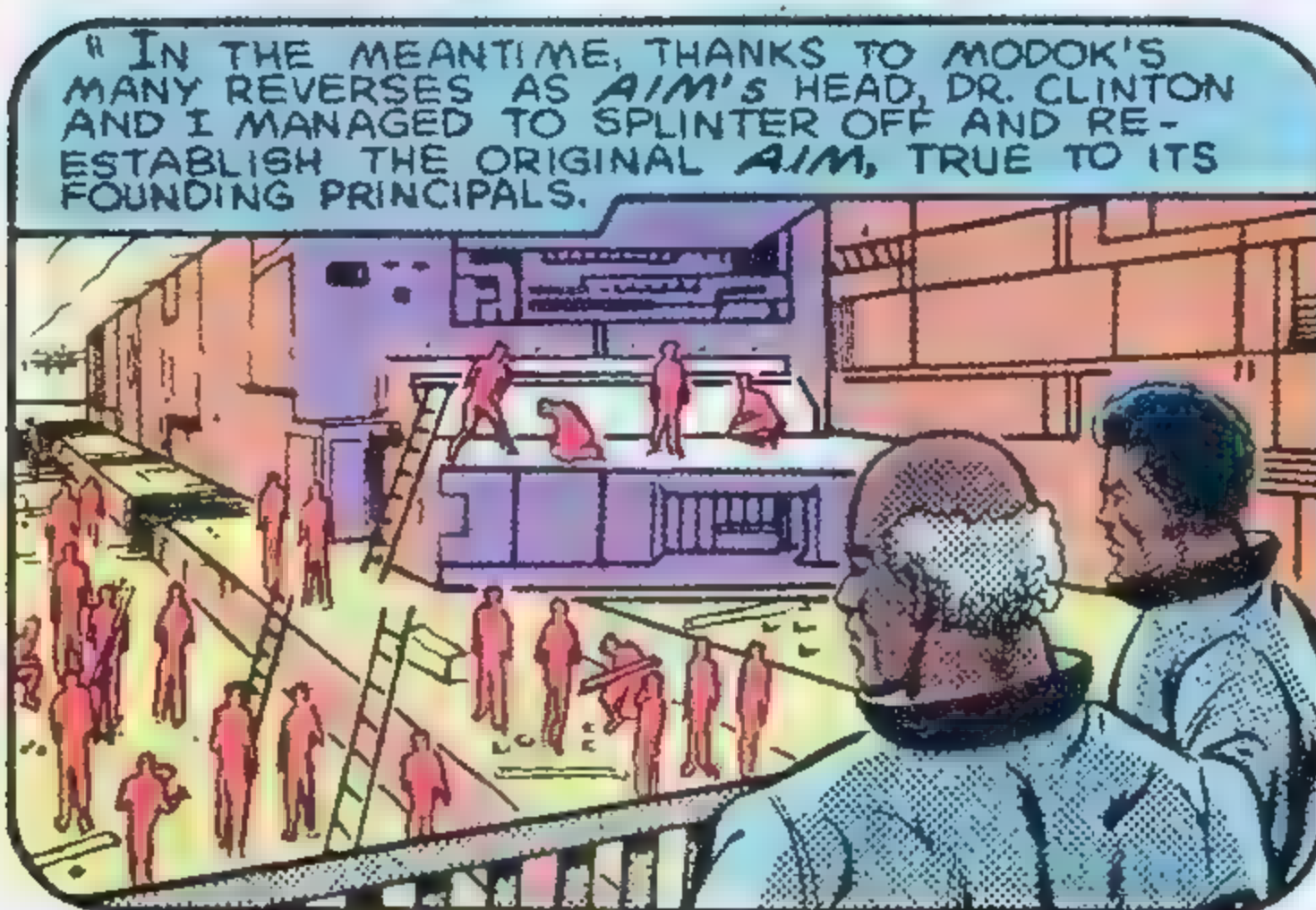
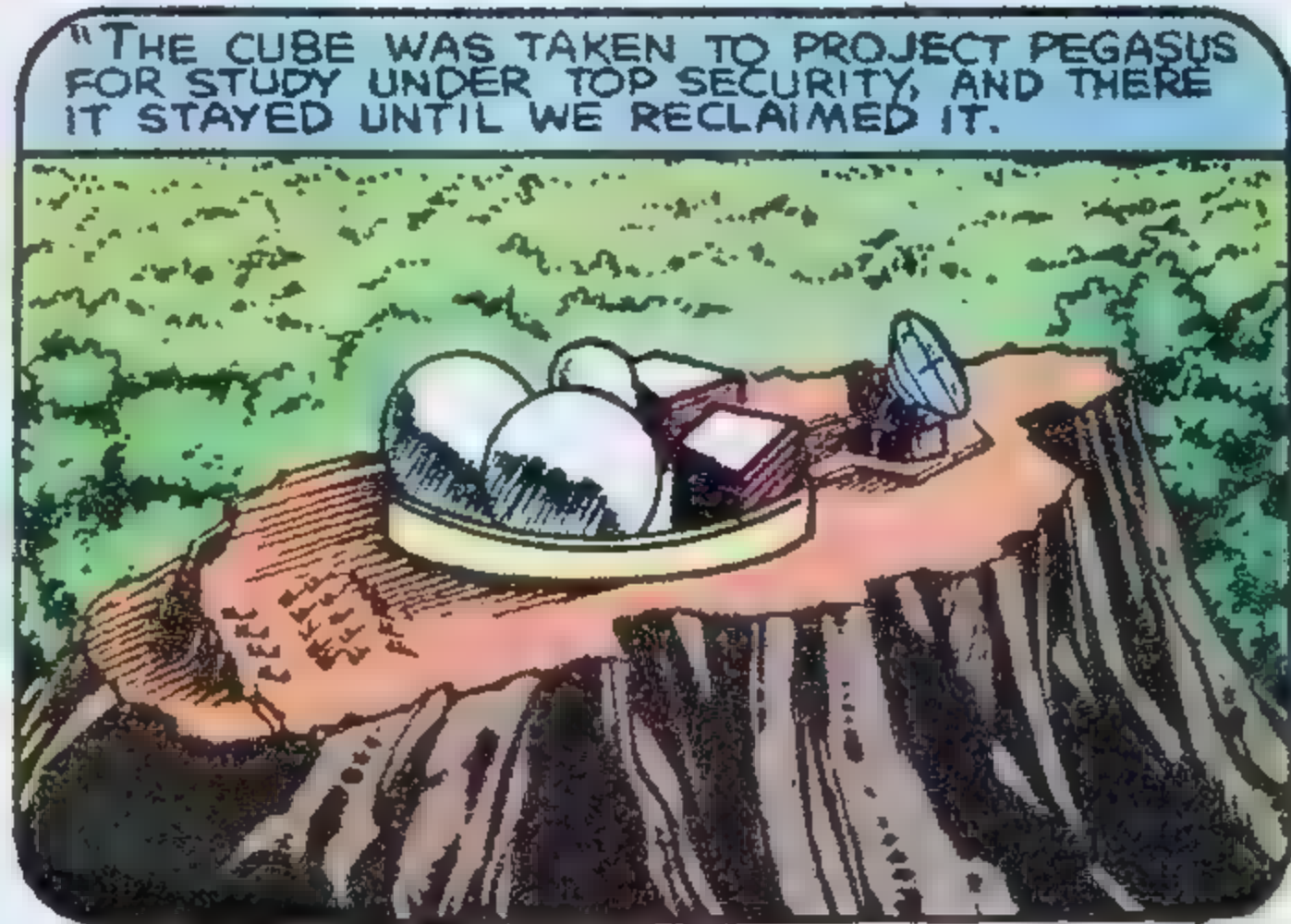
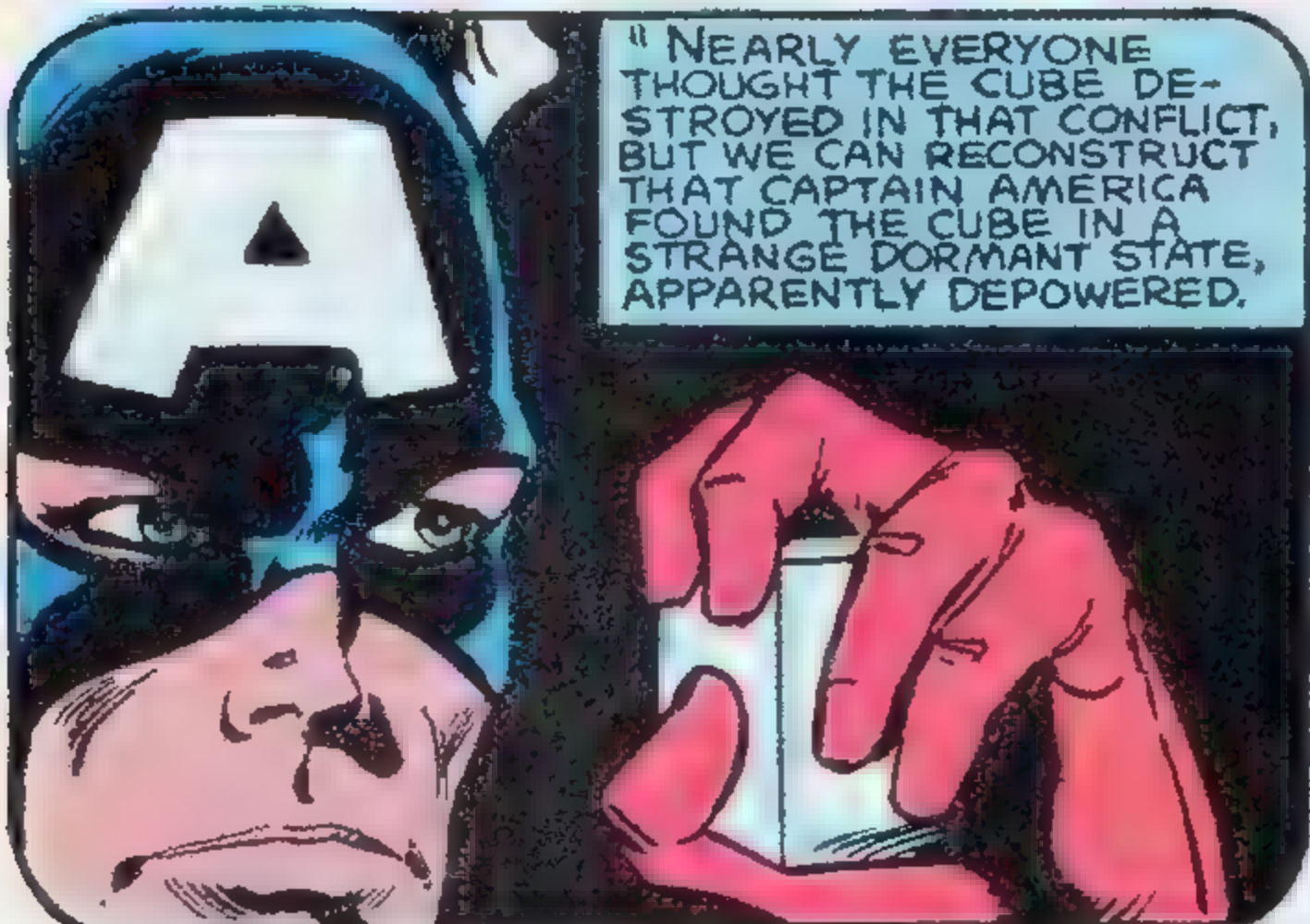
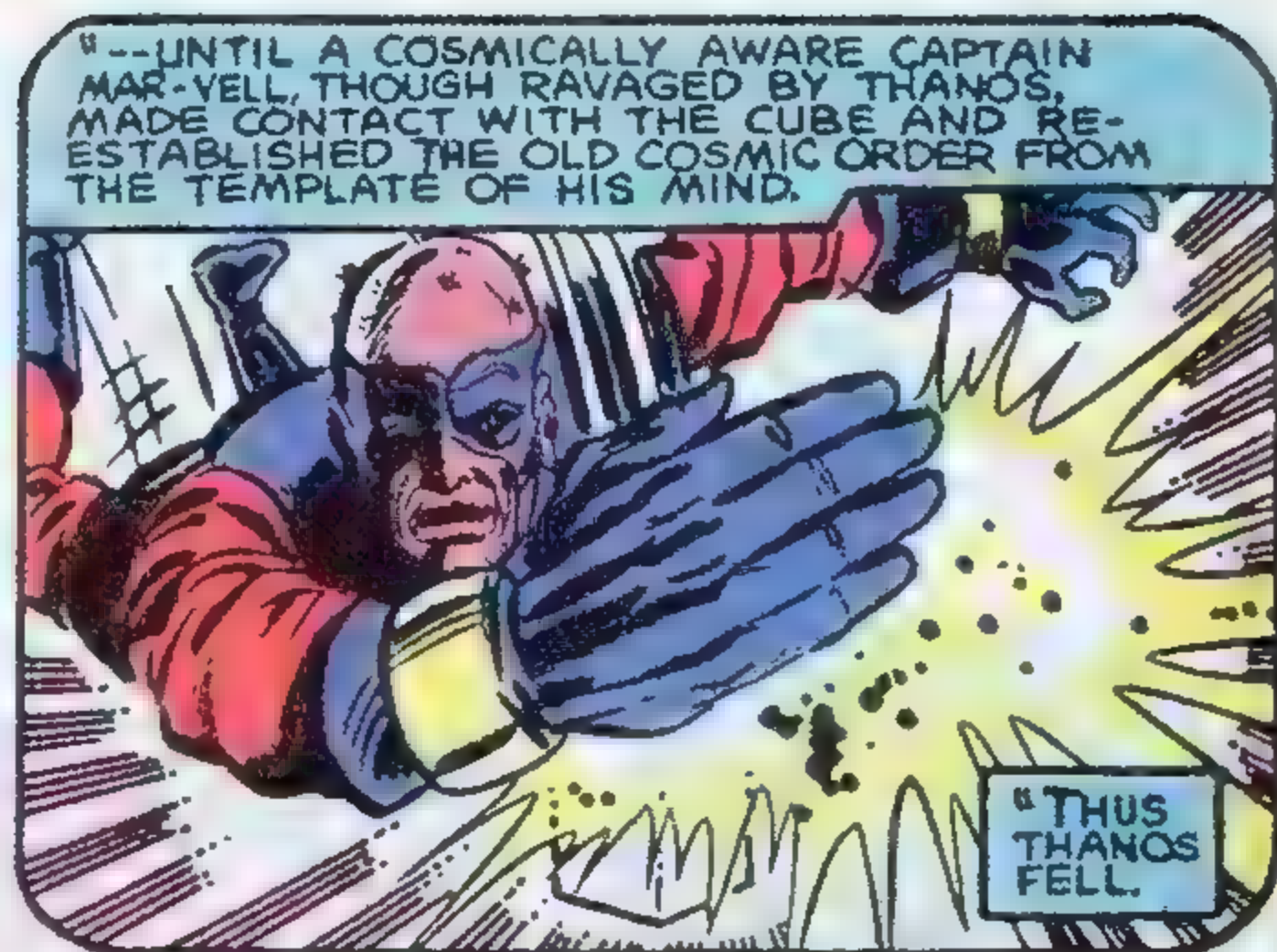
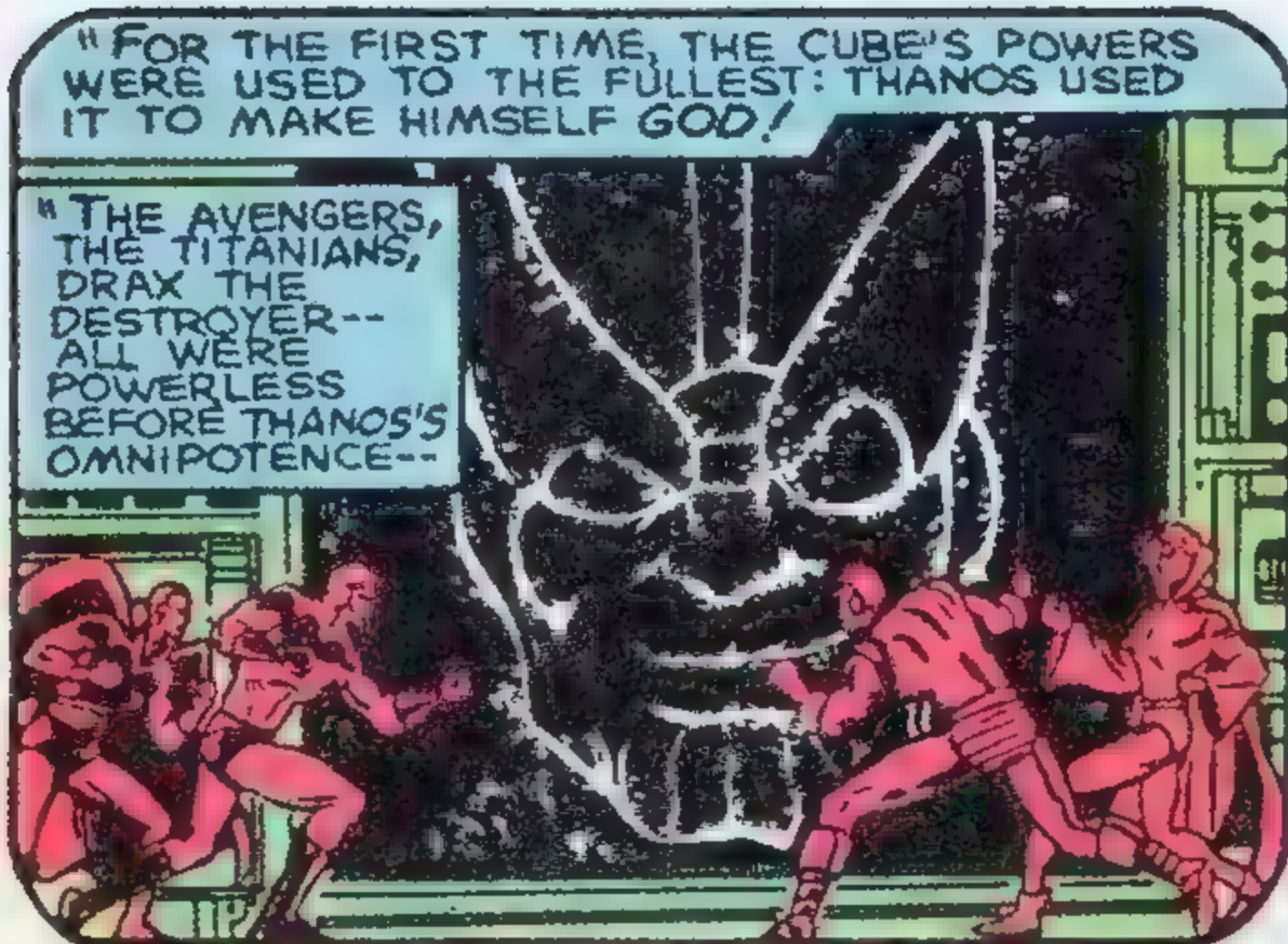
"THIS MAY BE WHY, WHEN THE SKULL AGAIN POSSESSED THE CUBE MODOK CAUSED THE FORCE--CAUSING TO DESTABILIZE, APPARENTLY 'DESTROYING' IT."



"BUT THE CUBE MERELY TELEPORTED SOMEHOW--AND MYSTERIOUSLY THE ONLY HUMAN WHO KNEW ITS LOCATION WAS ONE RICK JONES."

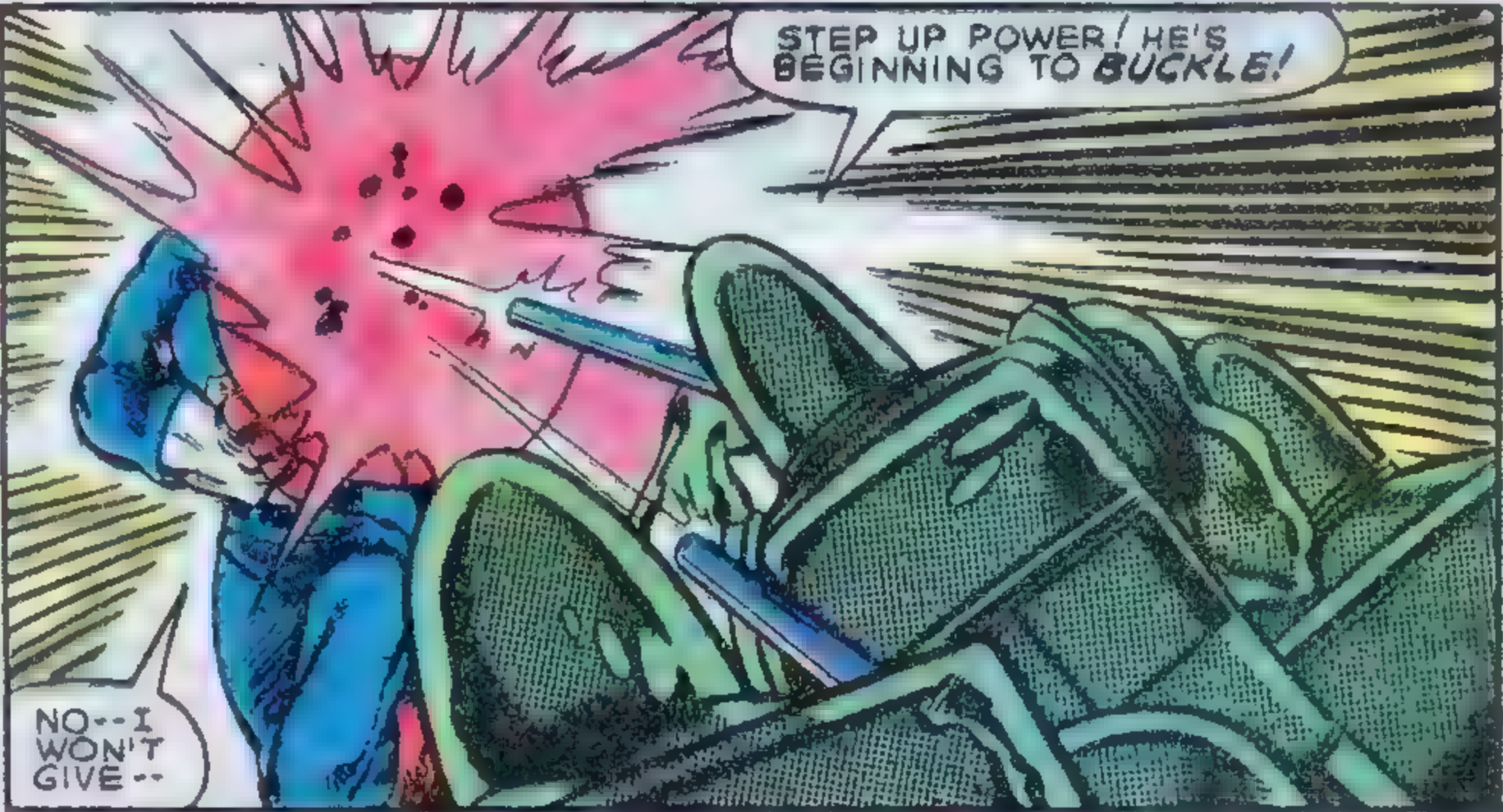


"THANOS, TYRANT OF SATURN'S MOON TITAN, DISCOVERED THIS AND FORCED THE SECRET FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA'S ONE-TIME PARTNER."

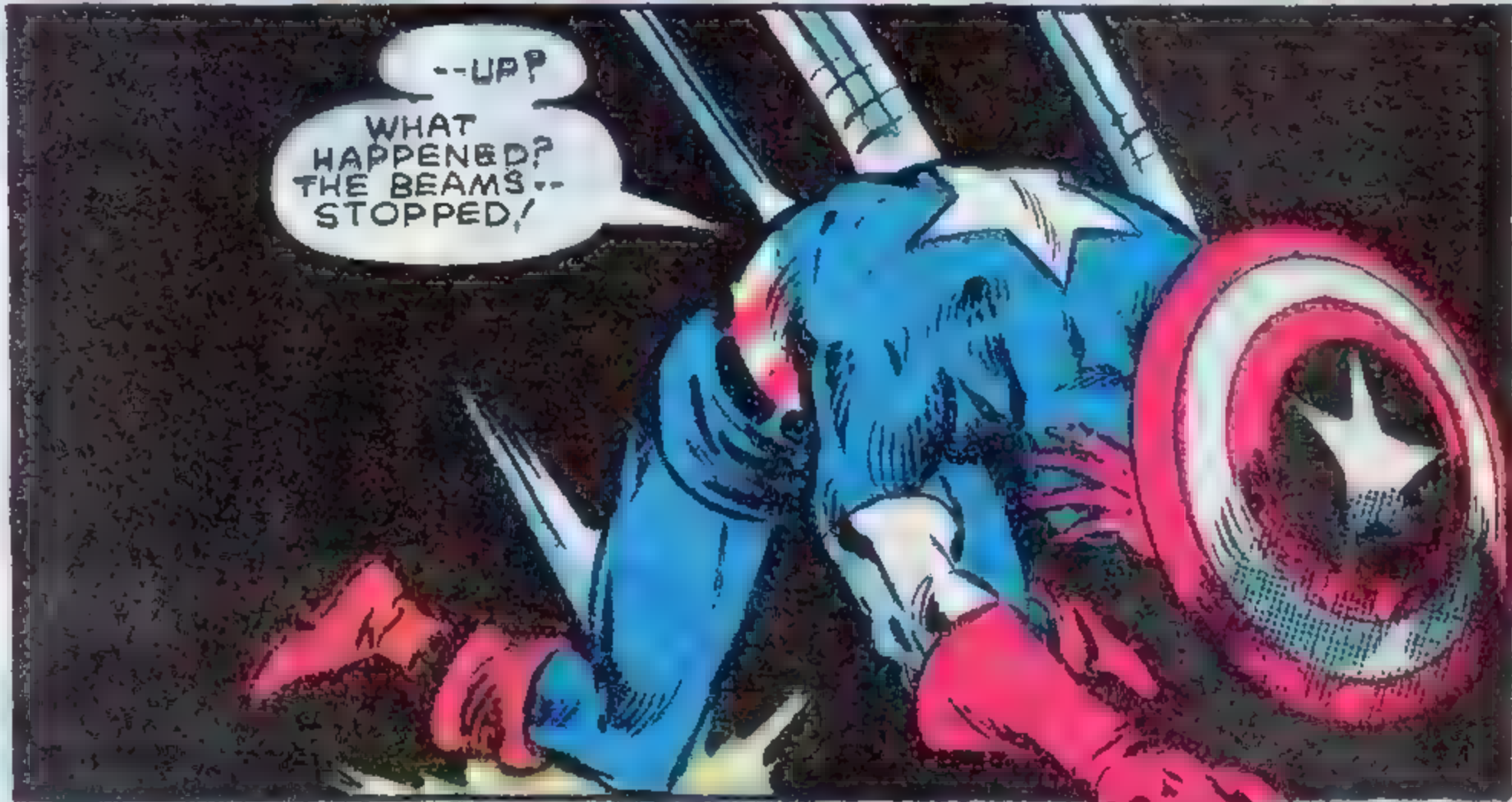


AND, MANY
LEVELS ABOVE...

HE CAN'T BE ADVANCING
AGAINST OUR BEAMS! IT
ISN'T POSSIBLE!



STEP UP POWER! HE'S
BEGINNING TO BUCKLE!



--UPP
WHAT
HAPPENED?
THE BEAMS--
STOPPED!

YOU JUST
KEEP THINKING
THAT FOR A
FEW MINUTES
MORE--!

RELAX, CAPTAIN.
I TOLD YOU I HAD
MY OWN WAY OF
DOING THINGS. THIS
IS IT.

AQUARIAN?
HOW'D--?
THERE'S
NO TIME--!

I KNOW THE CUBE'S IN DANGER
--SOMETHING STRANGE IS
HAPPENING WITHIN IT! WE'VE
GOT TO FIND IT BEFORE THAT.

DON'T WORRY-- MY ABILITIES
WILL BLANK OUT ALL POWER FROM
HERE TO THE LOWER LEVELS!
WE'LL MEET NO RESISTANCE!

ELSEWHERE...

THE CUBE IS BEING
FED WITH EXTREMELY
STABLE POWER
FIELDS AT LOW
LEVEL.

FOR, ONCE IT
HAS BEEN
BROUGHT
BACK TO
FULL POWER--

IT WILL MAKE
FOR ME A NEW
AND PERFECT
WORLD!

STOP WHERE
YOU ARE!

NOTHING
CAN BE
ALLOWED TO
UPSET ITS
BALANCE.

DON'T TOUCH
THE CUBE--IF YOU
VALUE YOUR LIFE!

WHOEVER YOU ARE--STOP! YOU
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

ON THE CONTRARY--I
I DO KNOW! I'VE ALWAYS
KNOWN *EXACTLY* WHAT
I'M DOING!

I WON'T LET
YOU ENDANGER THE
WORLD LIKE THIS!

BRAVE WORDS FROM
A MAN IN THE HEART
OF HIS ENEMY'S
STRONGHOLD!

THAT'S THE
PLACE WHERE
BRAVERY COUNTS,
MADMAN!

AS FOR
YOUR DEFENSES-- I
WOULDN'T COUNT ON
THEM TOO MUCH!

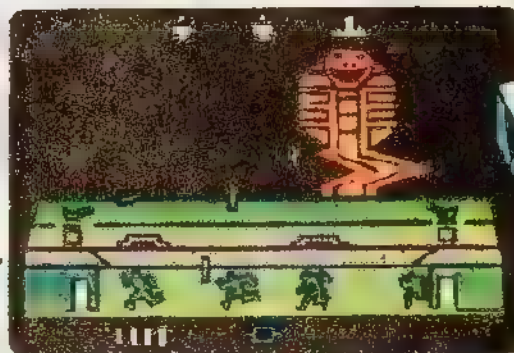
COBRA IS LOOKING FOR A FEW BAD MEN.



G.I. JOE IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN.



COMMAND THE FORCES OF DARKNESS AND EVIL... OR THE HEROIC DEFENDERS OF RIGHT AND JUSTICE. IT'S YOUR CHOICE, WITH THE NEW G.I. JOE VIDEO GAME CARTRIDGE. YOU CAN BE THE COBRA COMMANDER, DIRECTING THE GIANT COBRA ROBOT, BEAMING LASER BLASTS AND VENOM BOMBS AGAINST YOUR UNRELENTING FOE G.I. JOE, OR AS G.I. JOE, YOU FIGHT FOR THE GOOD OF MANKIND, ERECTING LASER SHIELDS AND POUNDING THE EVIL COBRA WITH MENACING MISSILES. YOU CAN PLAY! AGAINST THE COMPUTER, OR TAKE ON ONE OR TWO OTHER PLAYERS. WILL COBRA WIN THE BATTLE, OR WILL THE GOOD GUYS TRIUMPH IN THE END? IT'S UP TO YOU. ENLIST TODAY!



JOIN THE COURAGEOUS RANKS OF THE G.I. JOE RAPID-DEPLOYMENT TEAM... OR SINK TO NEW DEPTHS OF VILENESS AND EVIL. IT'S YOUR CHOICE, WITH THE NEW G.I. JOE VIDEO GAME CARTRIDGE. AS G.I. JOE, YOU ATTACK THE INSIDIOUS COBRA FORCES WITH MENACING MISSILES, WHILE PROTECTED BY LASER SHIELDS. OR PLAY AS COBRA COMMANDER STRUGGLING FOR WORLD DOMINATION WITH LASER BLASTS AND VENOM BOMBS. TAKE ON THE COMPUTER, OR ONE OR TWO OTHER PLAYERS. FOR GOOD OR BAD, RIGHT OR WRONG, THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS IN YOUR HANDS.

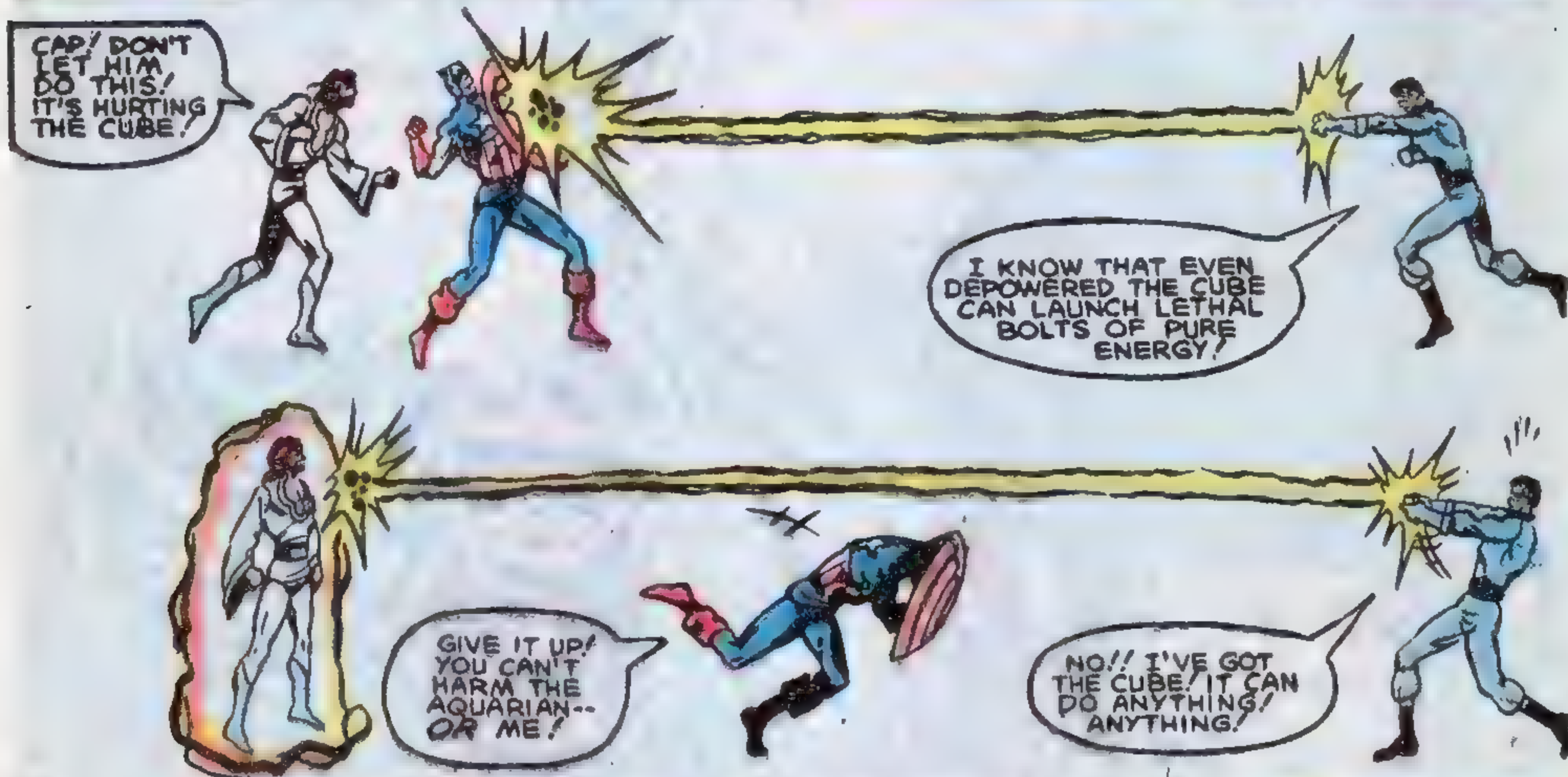
COMING
SOON **G.I. JOE** A REAL AMERICAN HERO!

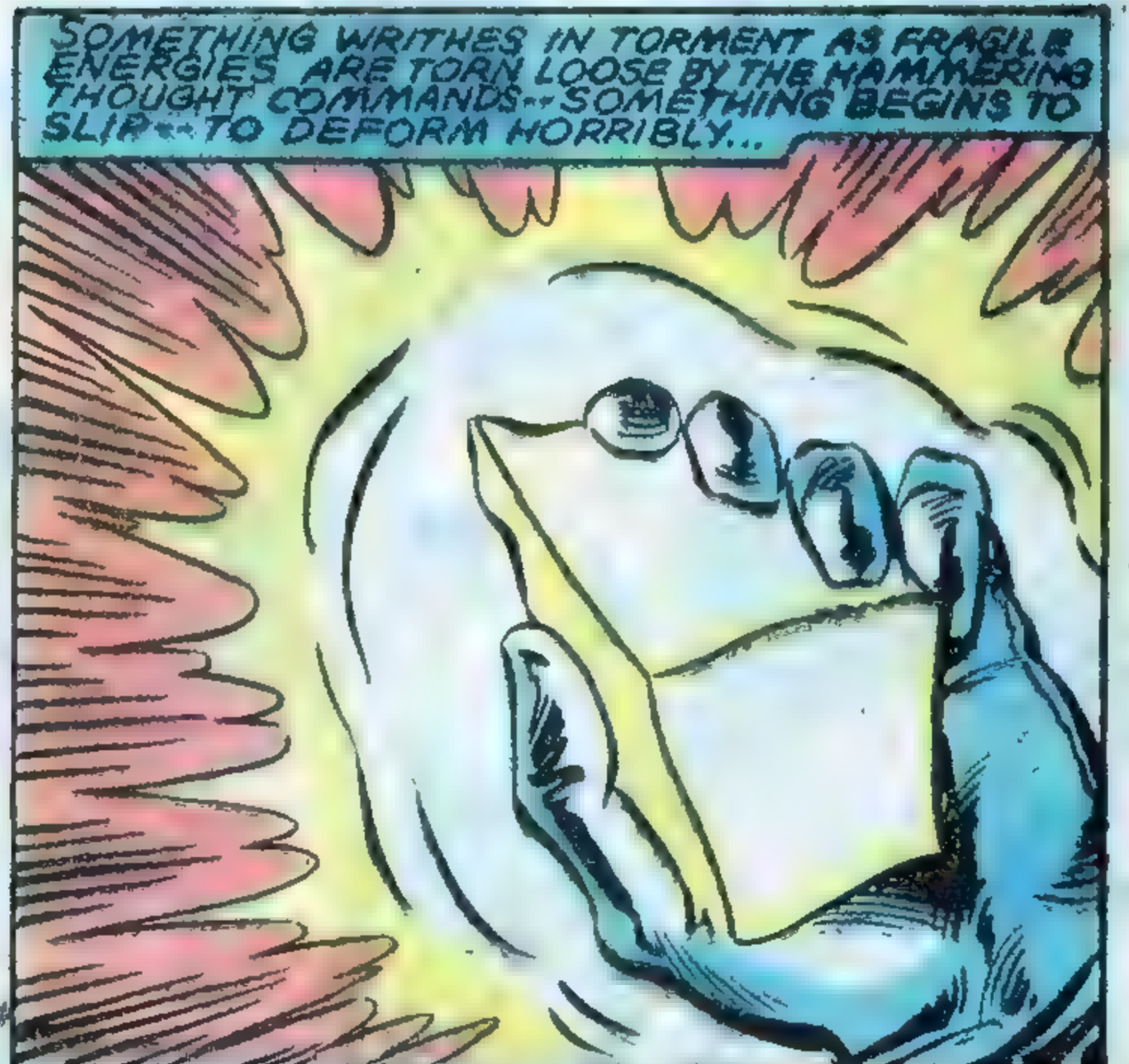
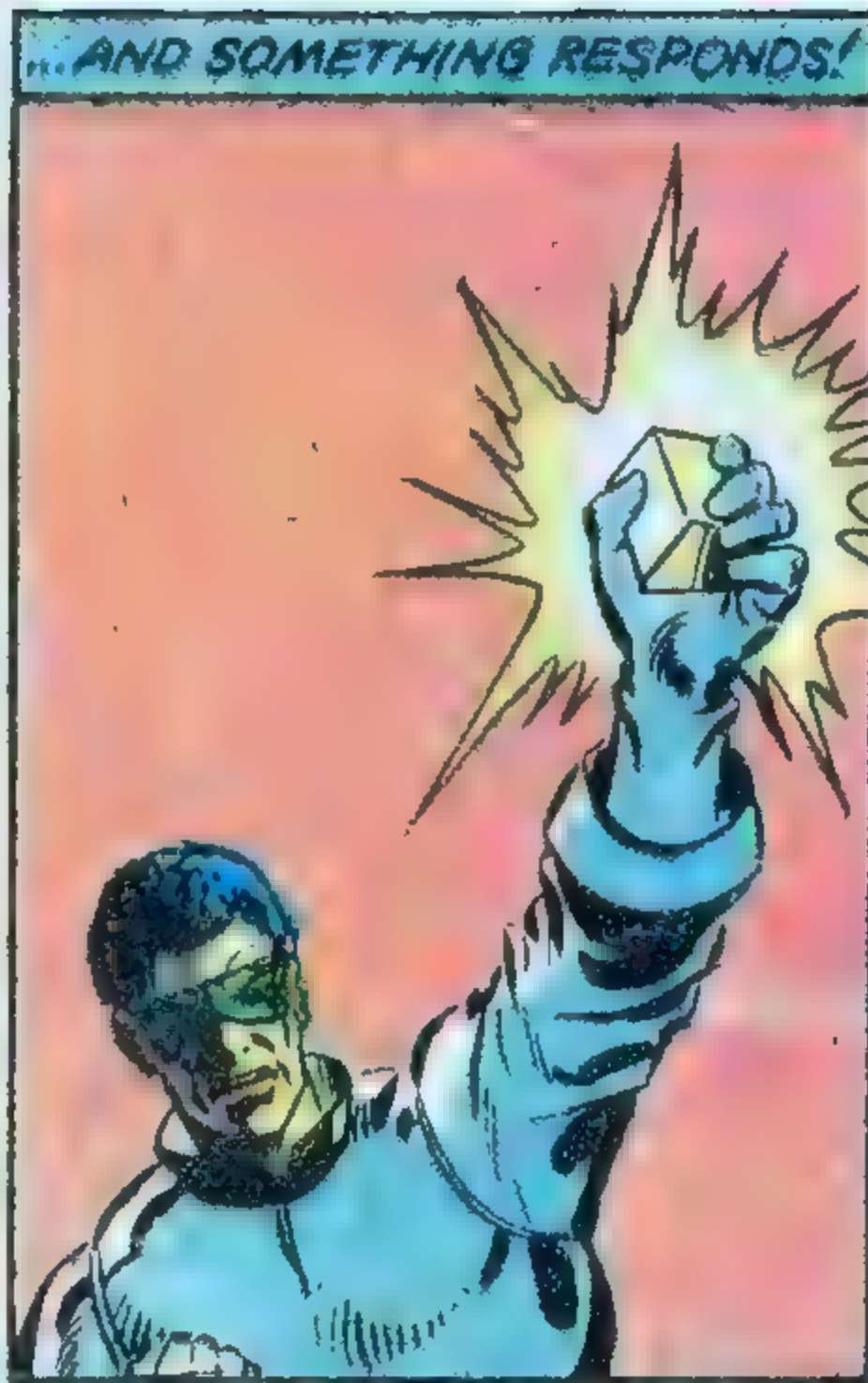
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PARKER BROTHERS THE ONES TO BEAT

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AND SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING
IS VERY, VERY DIFFERENT.

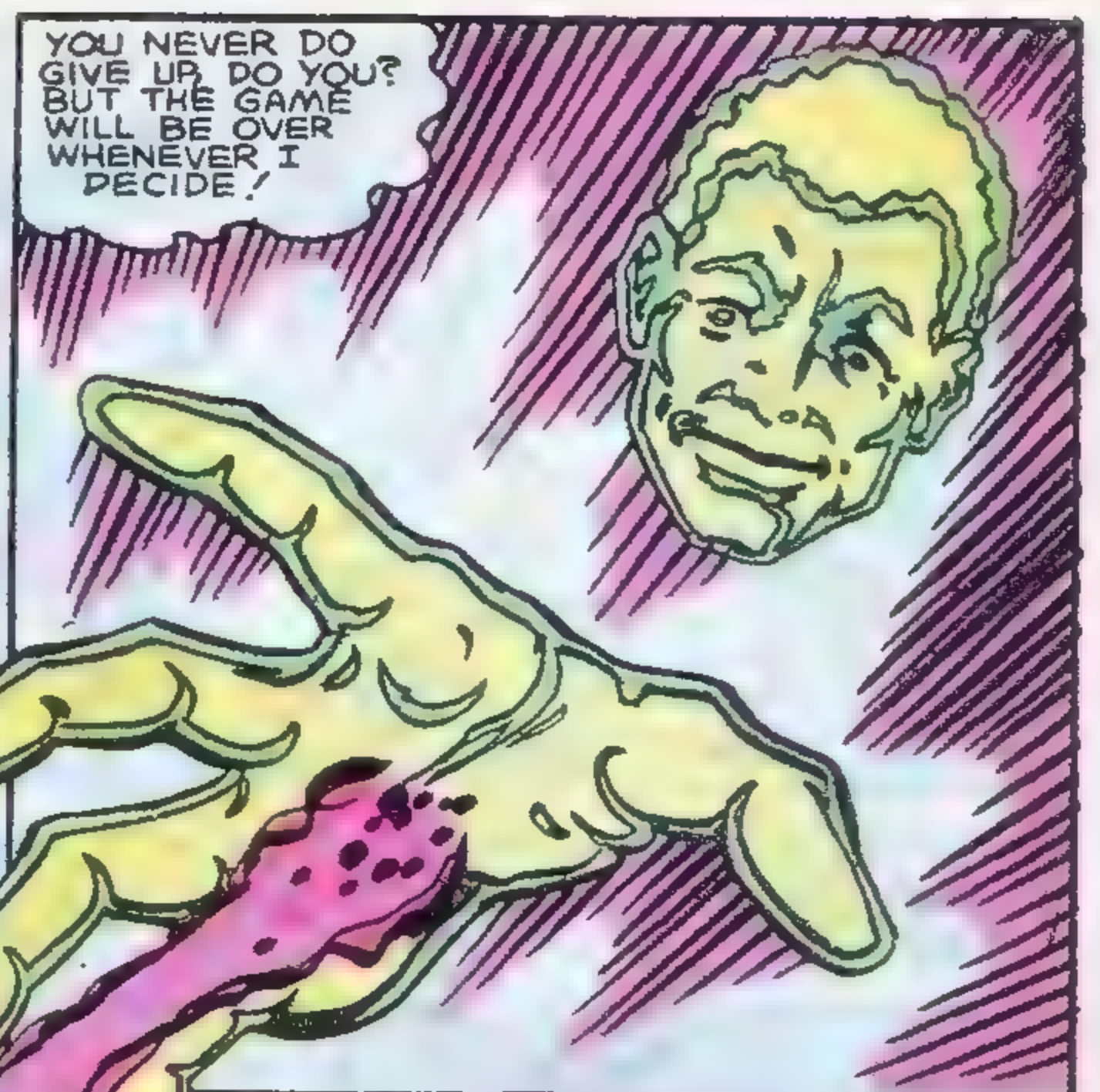
I DON'T
BELIEVE IT--
IT MUST BE
THE CUBE--BUT
I'VE NEVER
SEEN IT DO
ANYTHING
LIKE-- THIS!

AND IT'S LIKE THIS ALL
OVER EARTH, CAPTAIN?
TAKE MY WORD FOR IT!

WELCOME TO THE NEW
WORLD, MY FRIENDS--BEHOLD
THE NEW ORDER! SEE THE
FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSE--
AND *DIE!*

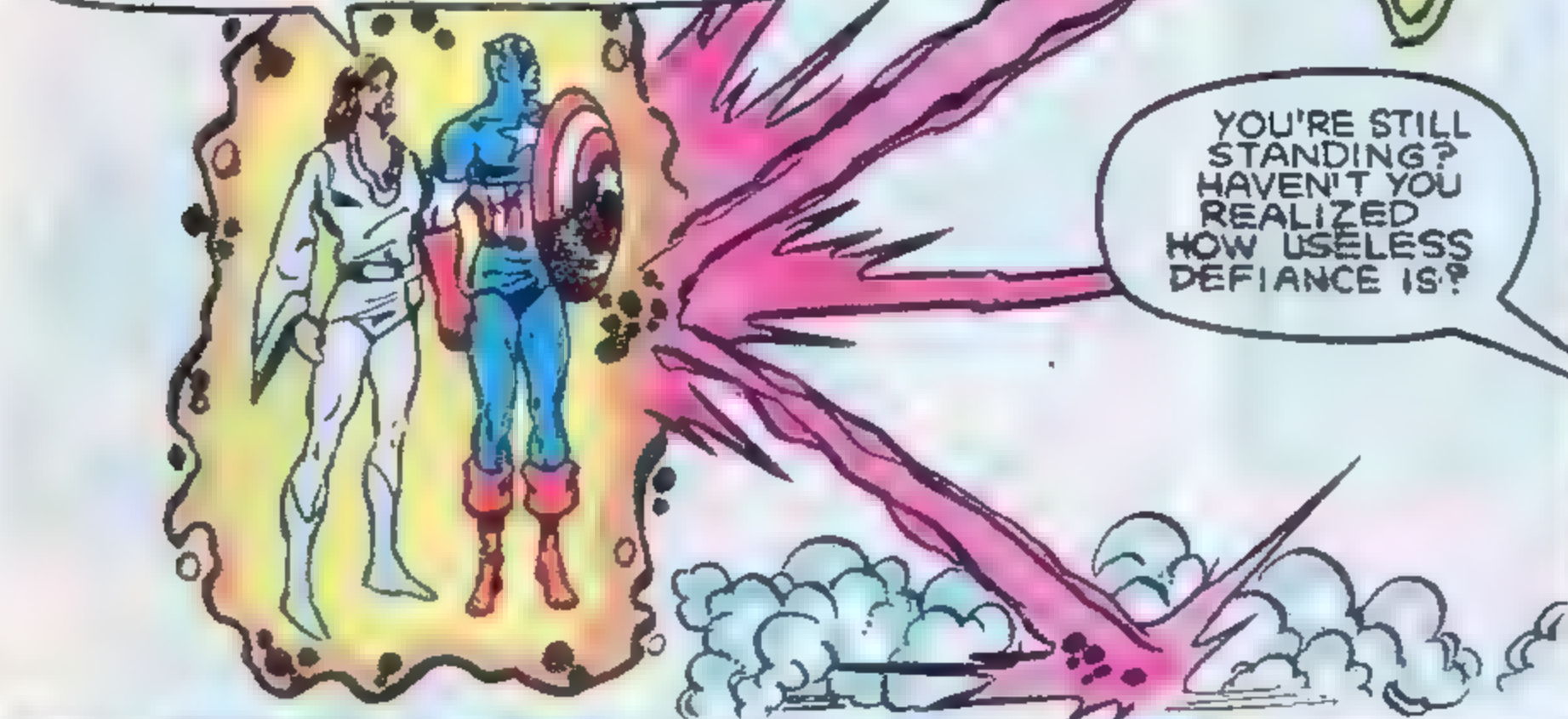


YOU HAVEN'T WON YET! WE'LL FIGHT YOU WHILE THERE'S BREATH LEFT IN OUR BODIES!

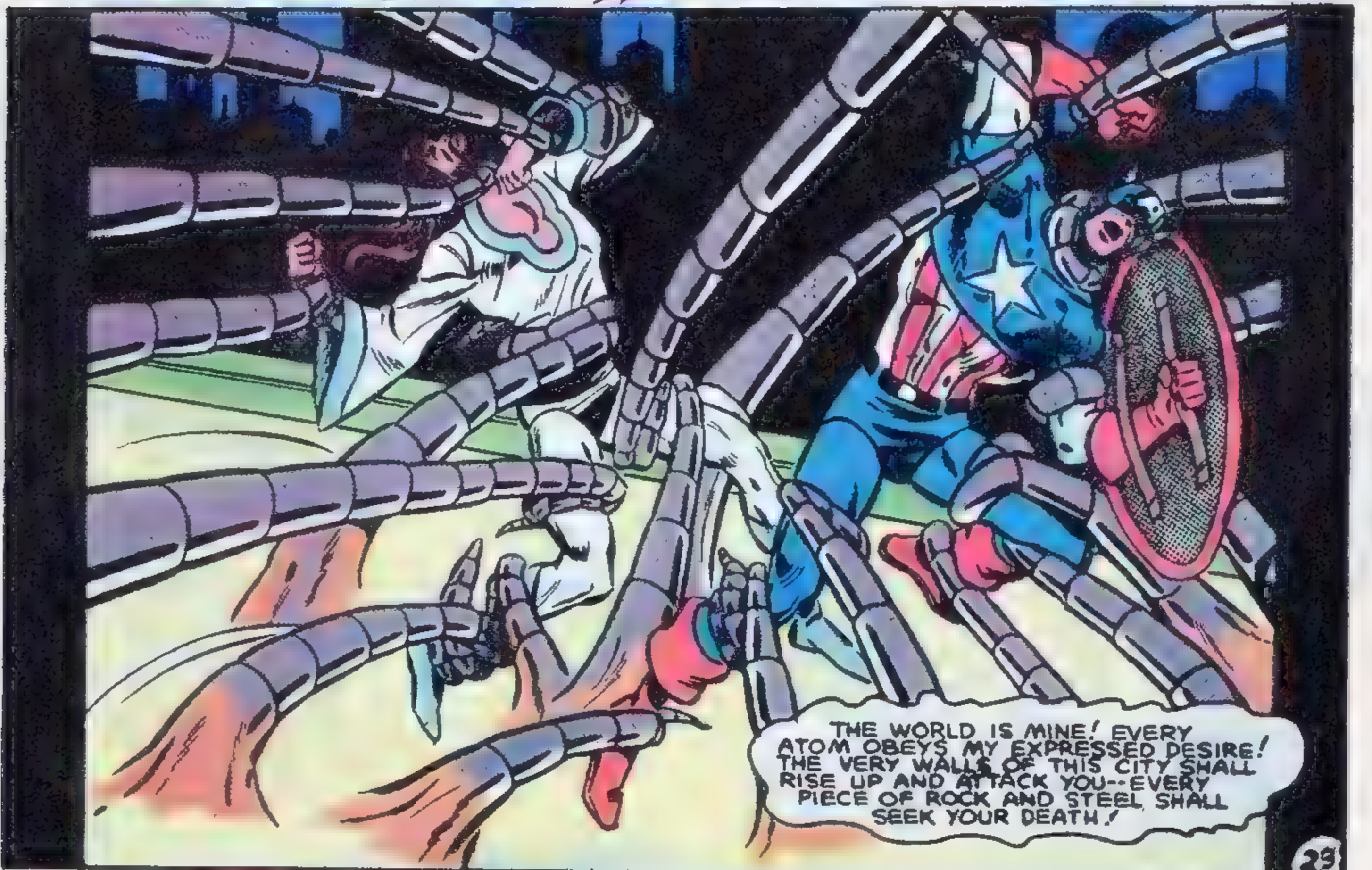


YOU NEVER DO GIVE UP, DO YOU? BUT THE GAME WILL BE OVER WHENEVER I DECIDE!

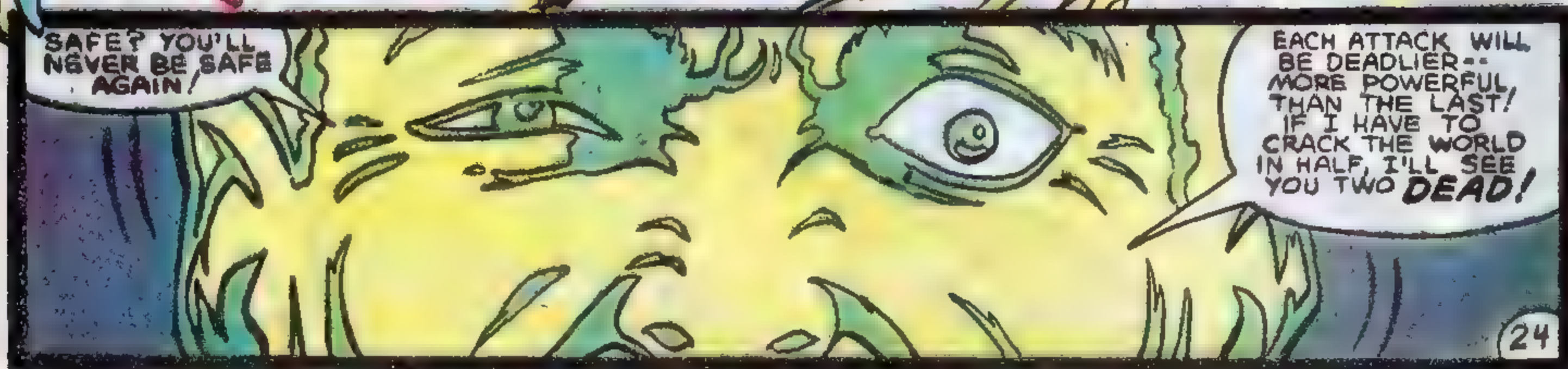
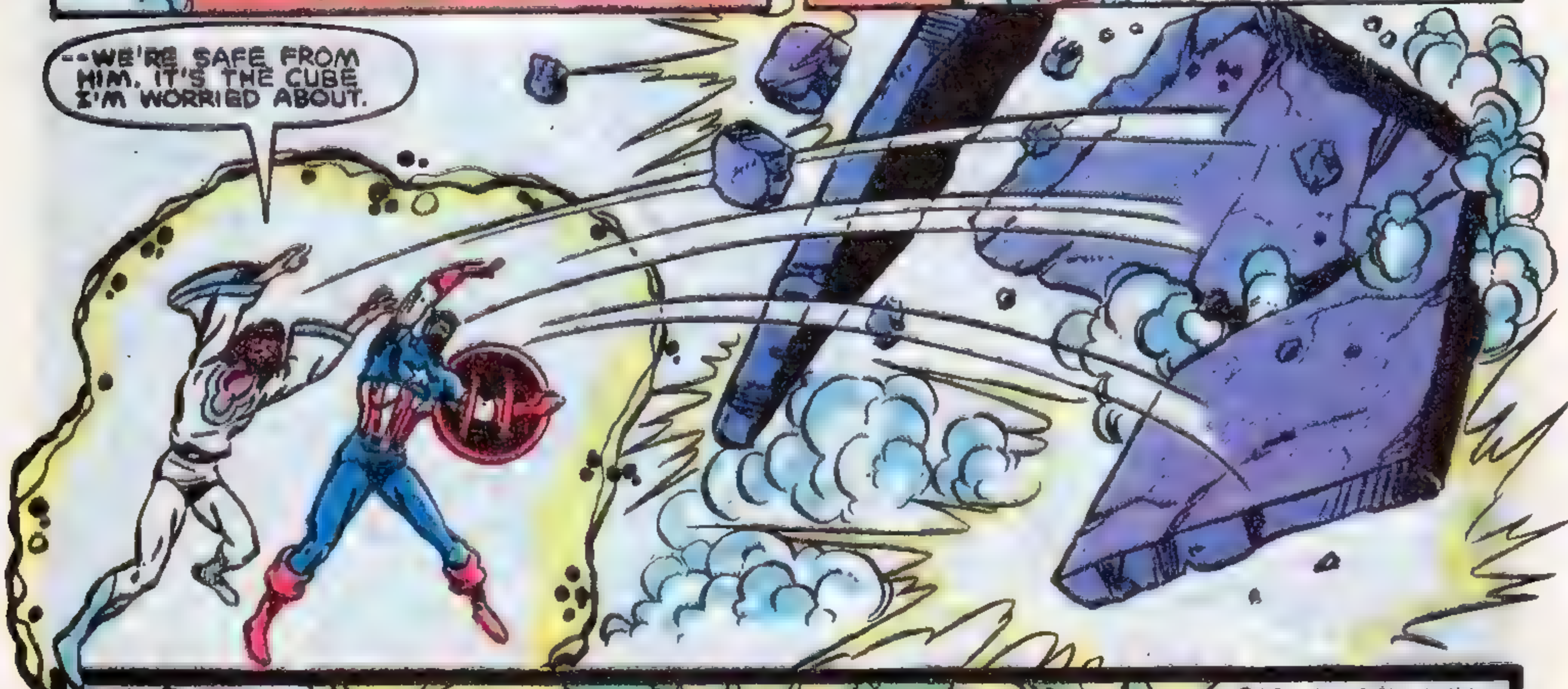
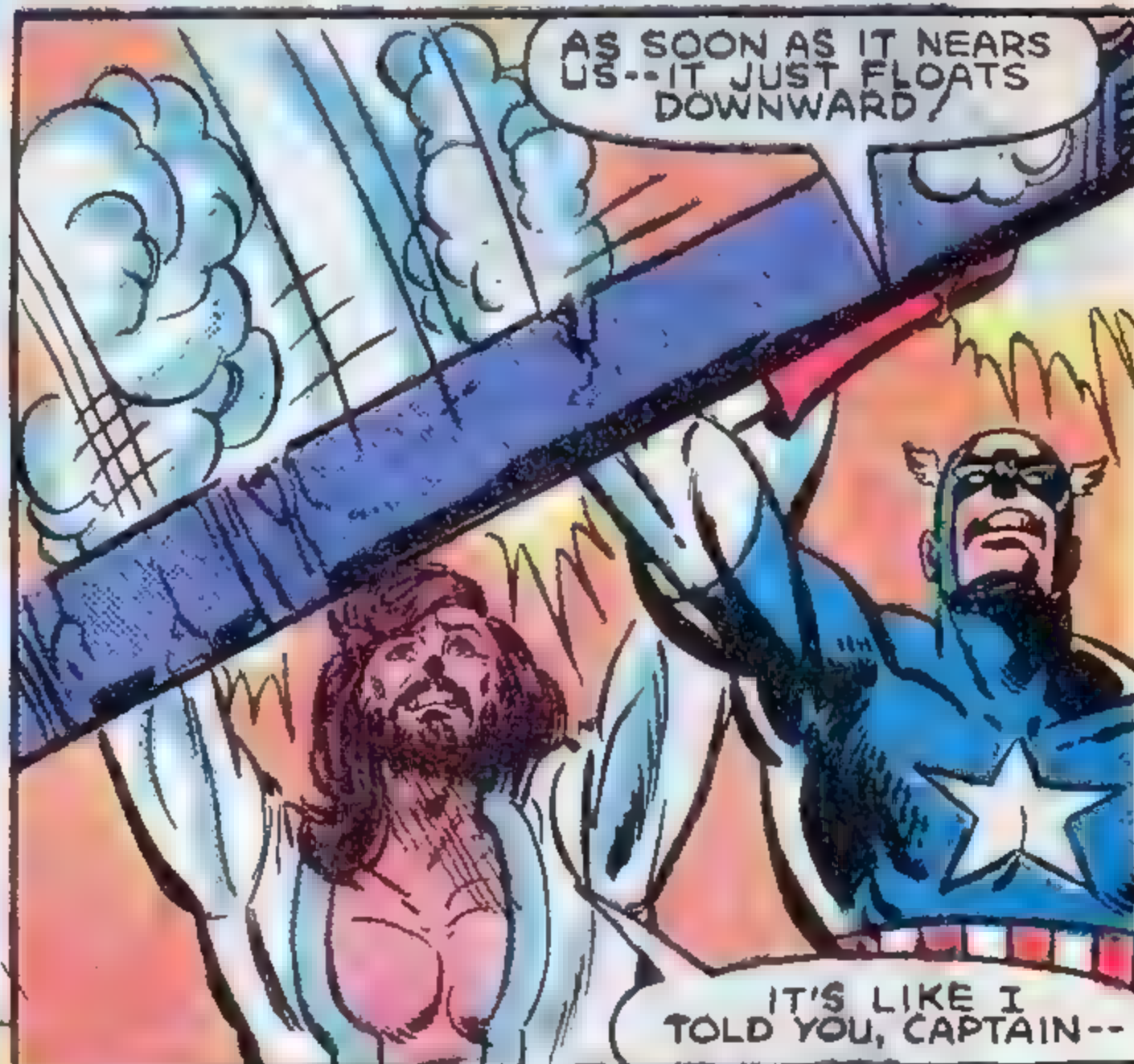
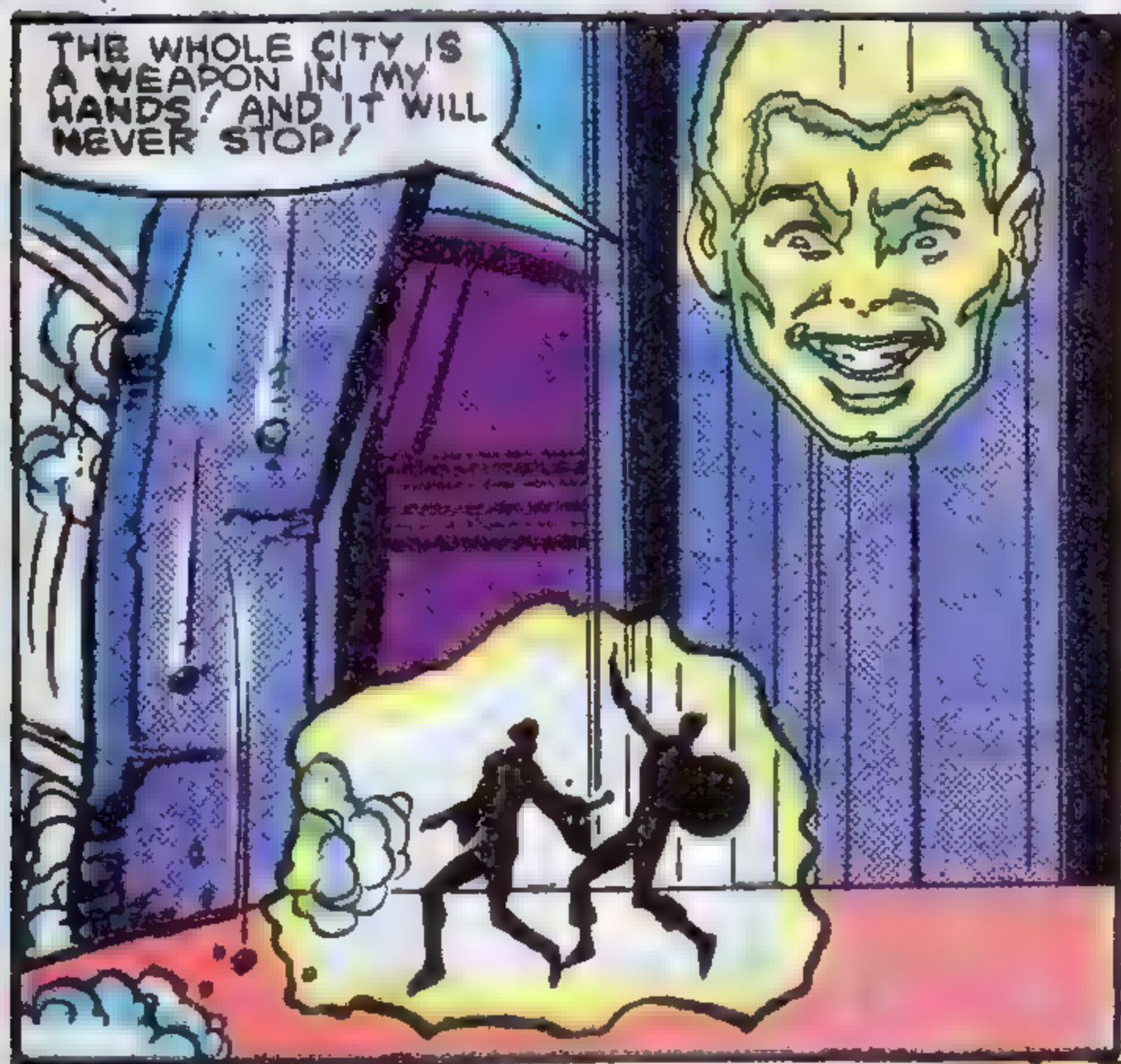
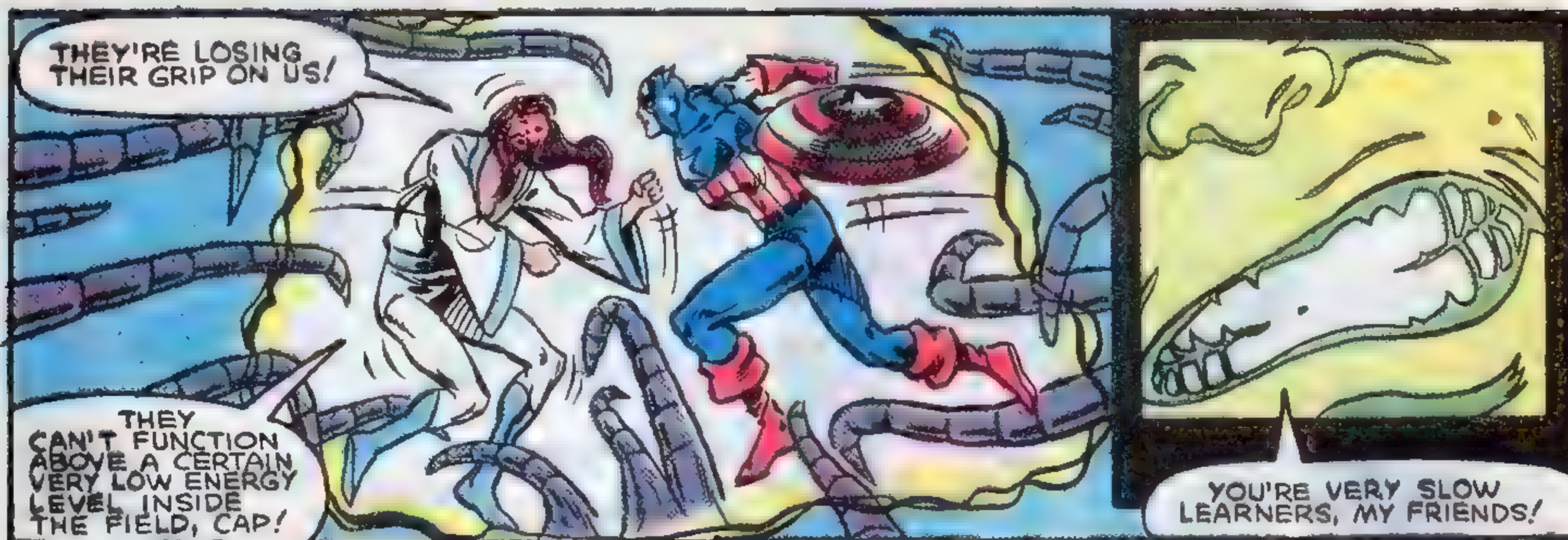
STAND VERY STILL, CAP. NO MATTER THE POWER, IT CAN'T PENETRATE MY NULL-FIELD.



YOU'RE STILL STANDING? HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED HOW USELESS DEFIANCE IS?



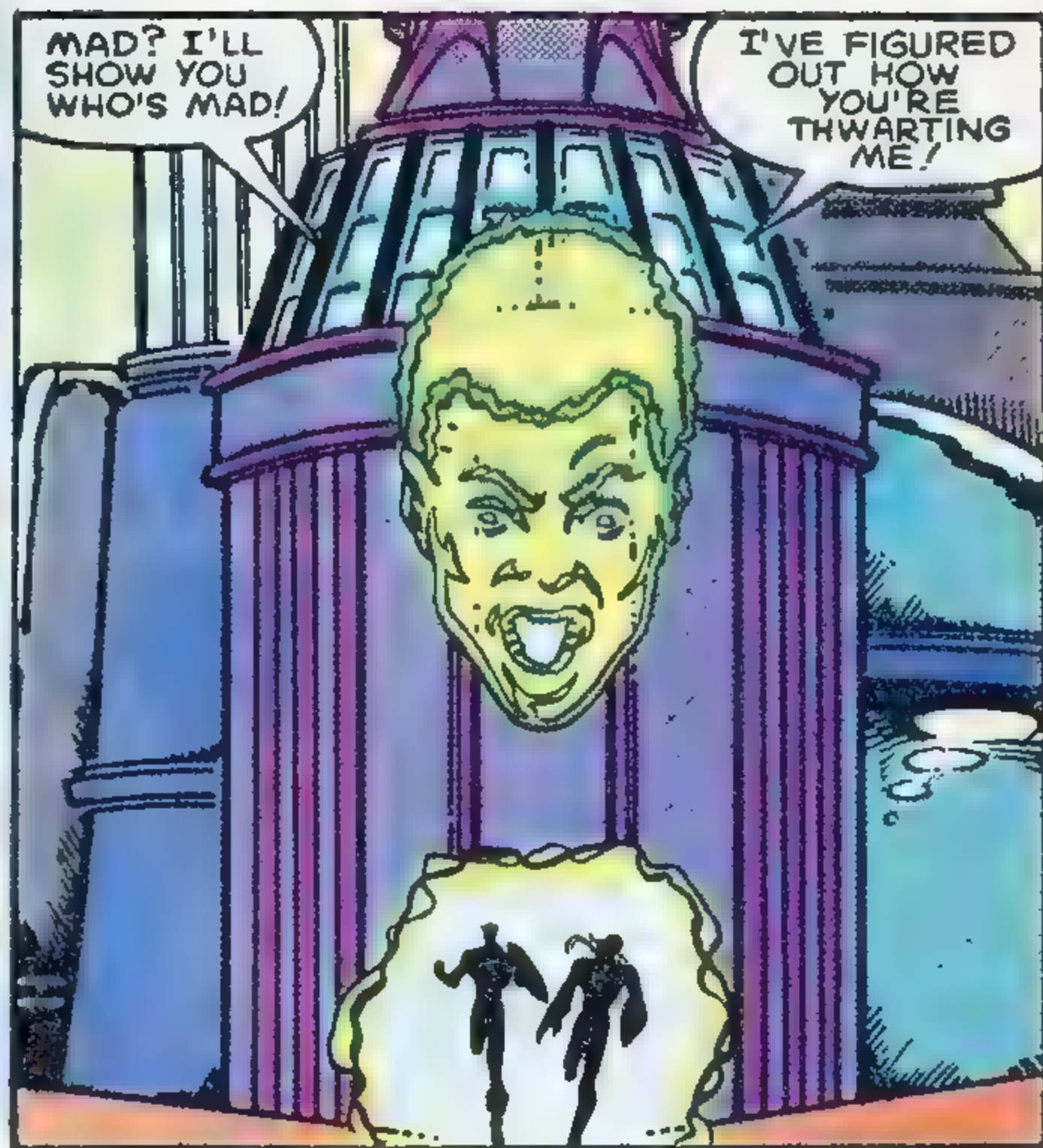
THE WORLD IS MINE! EVERY ATOM OBEYS MY EXPRESSED DESIRE! THE VERY WALLS OF THIS CITY SHALL RISE UP AND ATTACK YOU--EVERY PIECE OF ROCK AND STEEL SHALL SEEK YOUR DEATH!





HE'S GONE
POWER-MAD--
LIKE ALL
THOSE WHO'VE
USED THE
CUBE!

I THINK THE CUBE MAY
BE REFLECTING BACK
TO HIM THE HATE AND
FEAR HE THRUST INTO
IT--FORMING A VICIOUS
CYCLE OF MADNESS.



MAD? I'LL
SHOW YOU
WHO'S MAD!

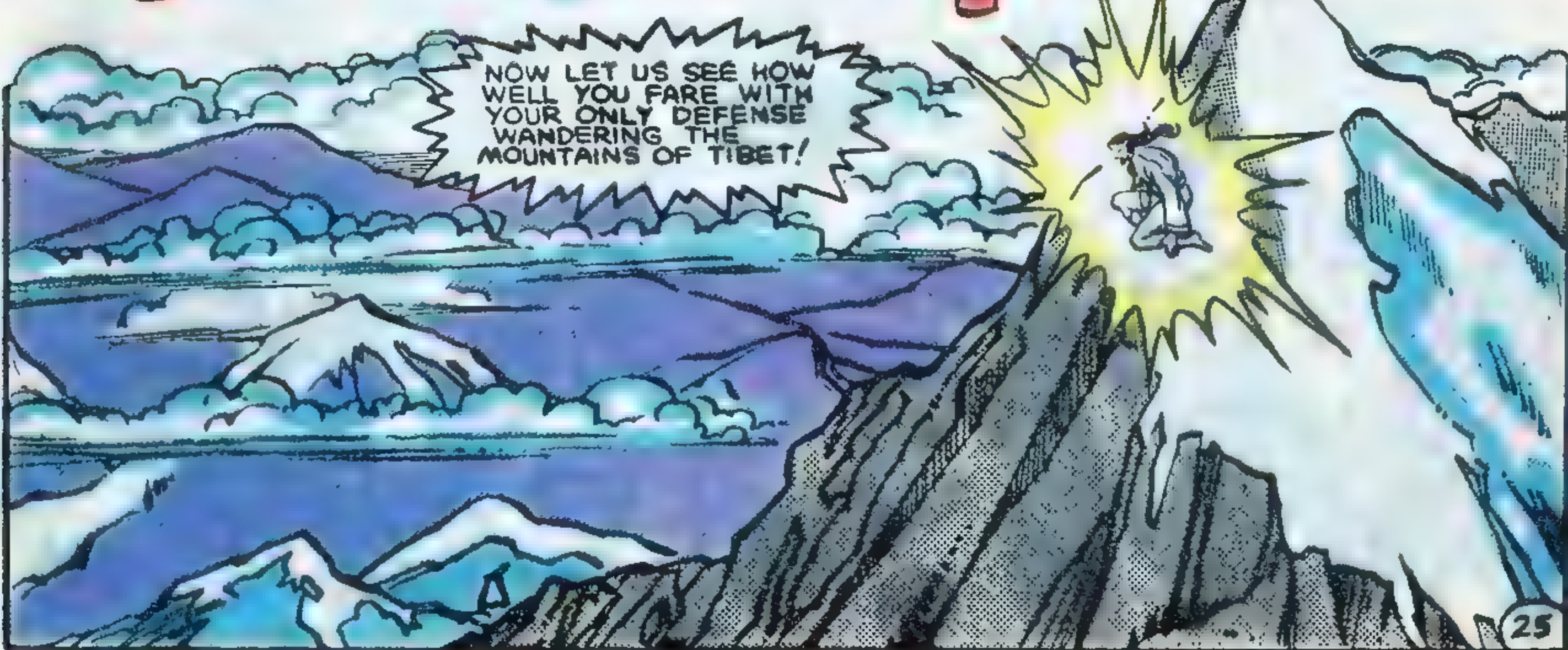
I'VE FIGURED
OUT HOW
YOU'RE
THWARTING
ME!



IT'S OBVIOUSLY YOUR HIPPIE
FRIEND, CAPTAIN, WHO IS
NULLIFYING MY ENERGIES--



--SO I SHALL SIMPLY WILL
IT THAT HE IS NO LONGER
BY YOUR SIDE / SEE?



NOW LET US SEE HOW
WELL YOU FARE WITH
YOUR ONLY DEFENSE
WANDERING THE
MOUNTAINS OF TIBET!

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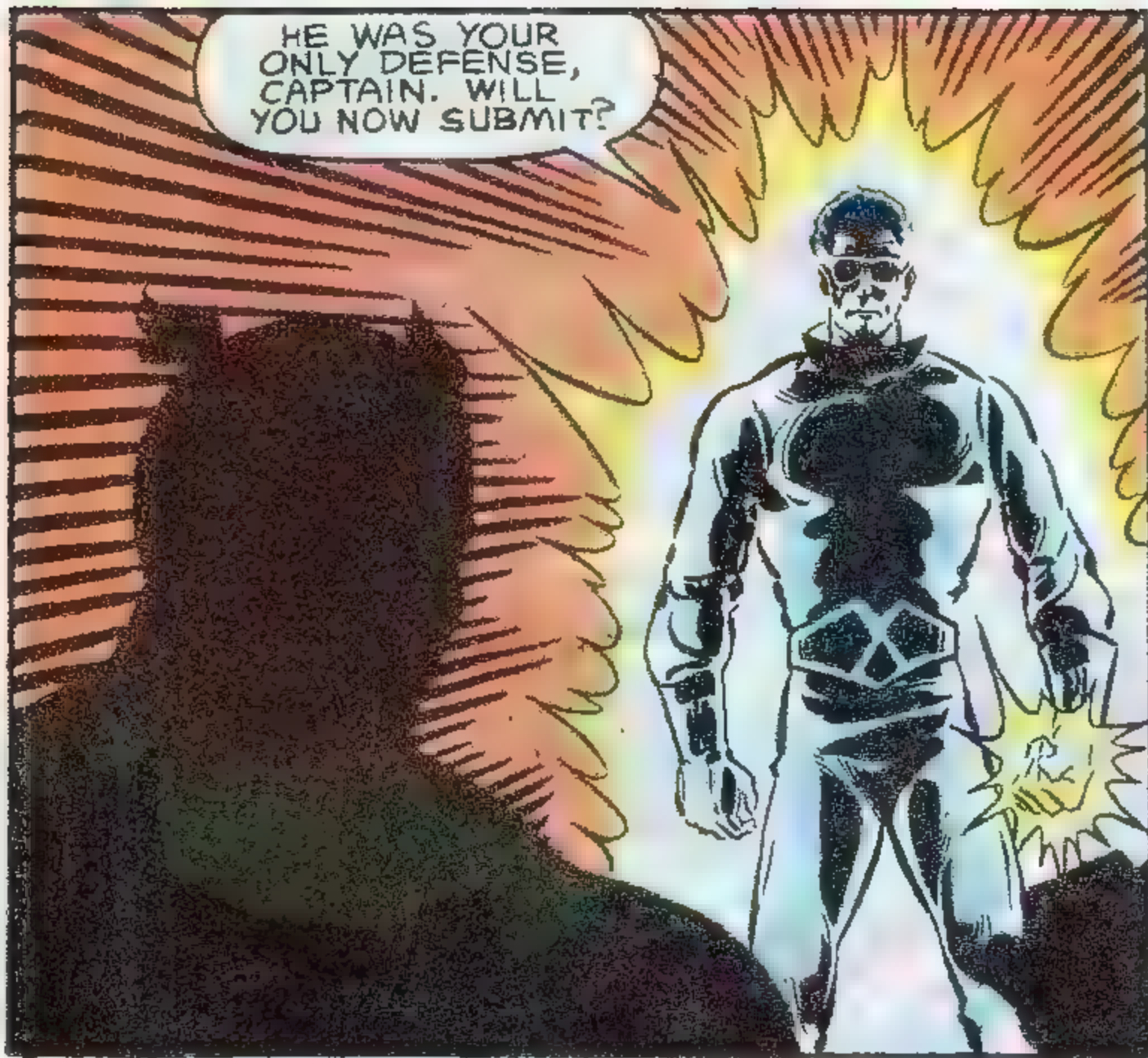
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HE WAS YOUR ONLY DEFENSE, CAPTAIN. WILL YOU NOW SUBMIT?



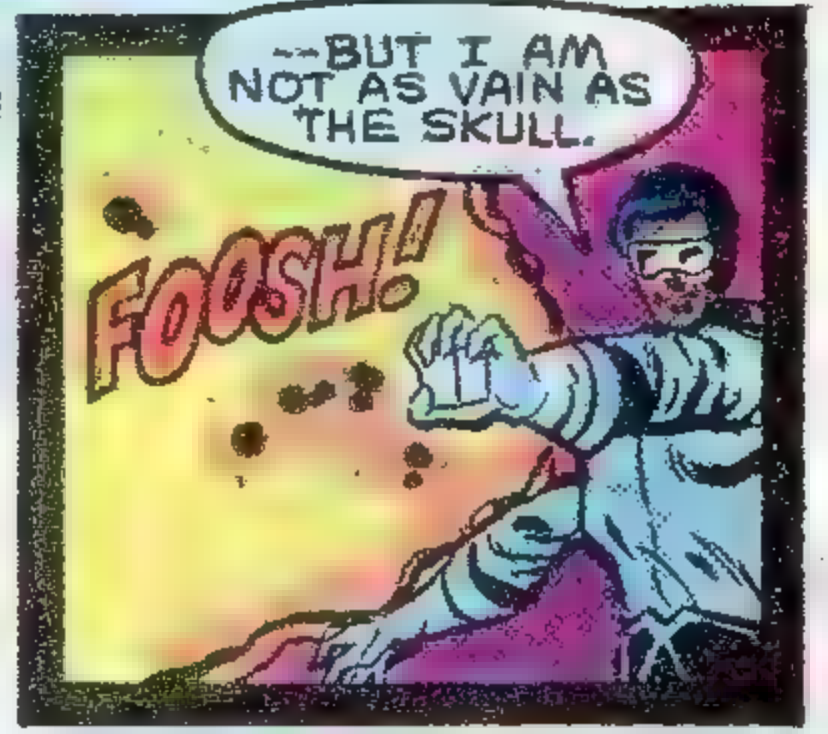
NEVER!

HE'S REASSUMED PHYSICAL FORM! AT LAST I HAVE SOMETHING TANGIBLE TO FIGHT!

I'LL SHOW YOU THAT MANKIND CANNOT BE COWED--EVEN WITH THE COSMIC CUBE!



AND ONE LAST, PHYSICAL ATTACK WHILE YOU TALK, EH? THAT PLOY MAY HAVE WORKED WITH THE RED SKULL--



--BUT I AM NOT AS VAIN AS THE SKULL.



SUCH A FINE BODY, CAPTAIN: SO TALL AND BROAD.

A PSYCHOLOGICAL PLUS WHEN YOU'RE SPOUTING THREATS, NO DOUBT.



WHAT WILL YOUR DISPOSITION BE, I WONDER--

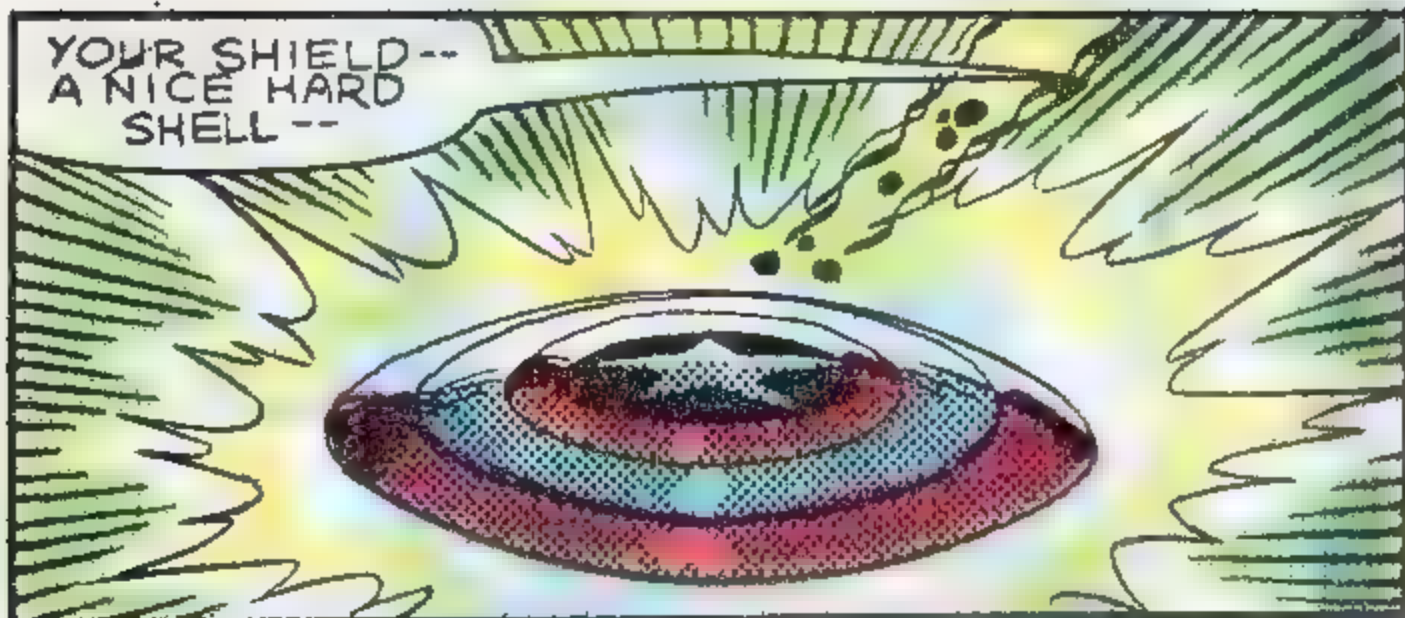


--WHEN YOUR BONES ARE TELEPORTED OUT OF YOUR BODY?

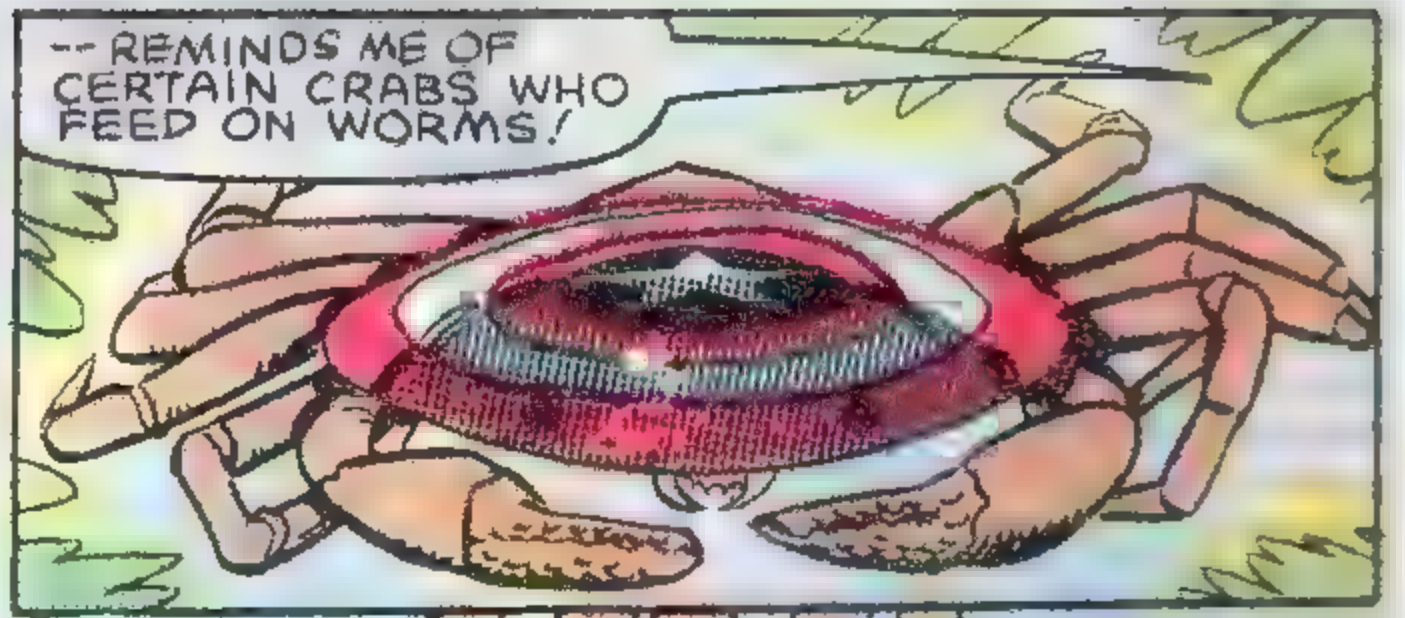


AH, VERY NOBLE, CAPTAIN. YOU CRAWL-- MUSCLE AGAINST MUSCLE LIKE AN INVERTEBRATE WORM ALONG THE BEACH.

AND THAT SUGGESTS ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE SCENARIO!

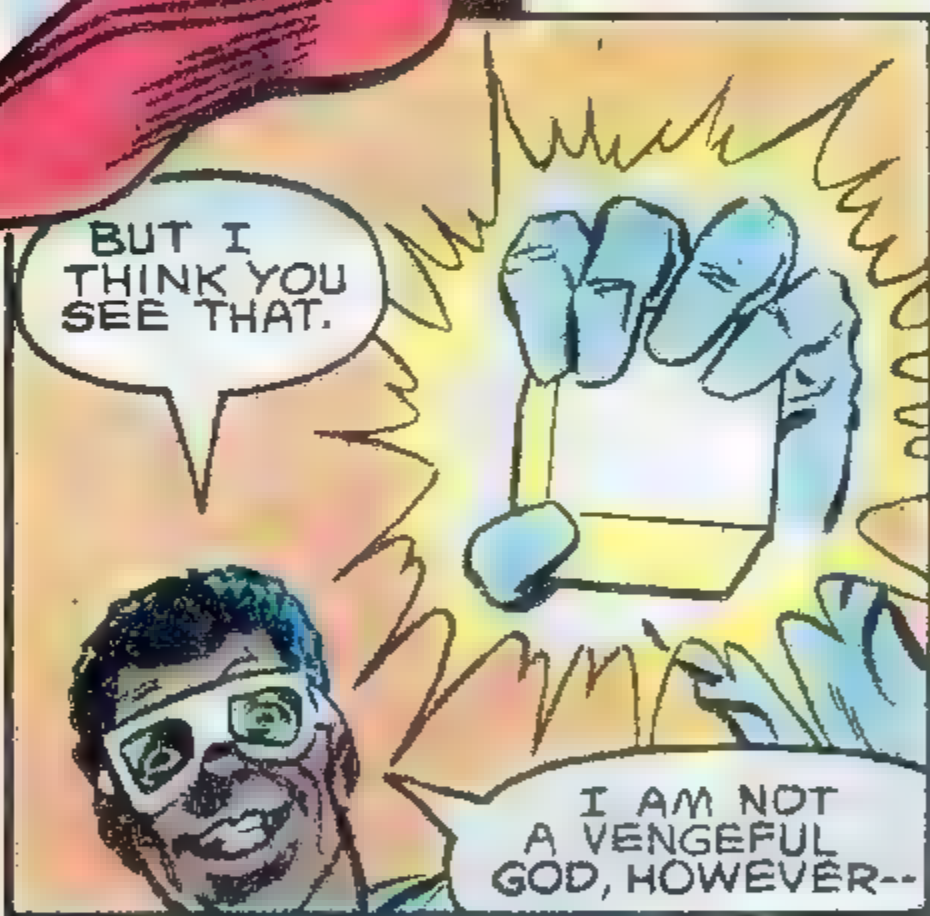
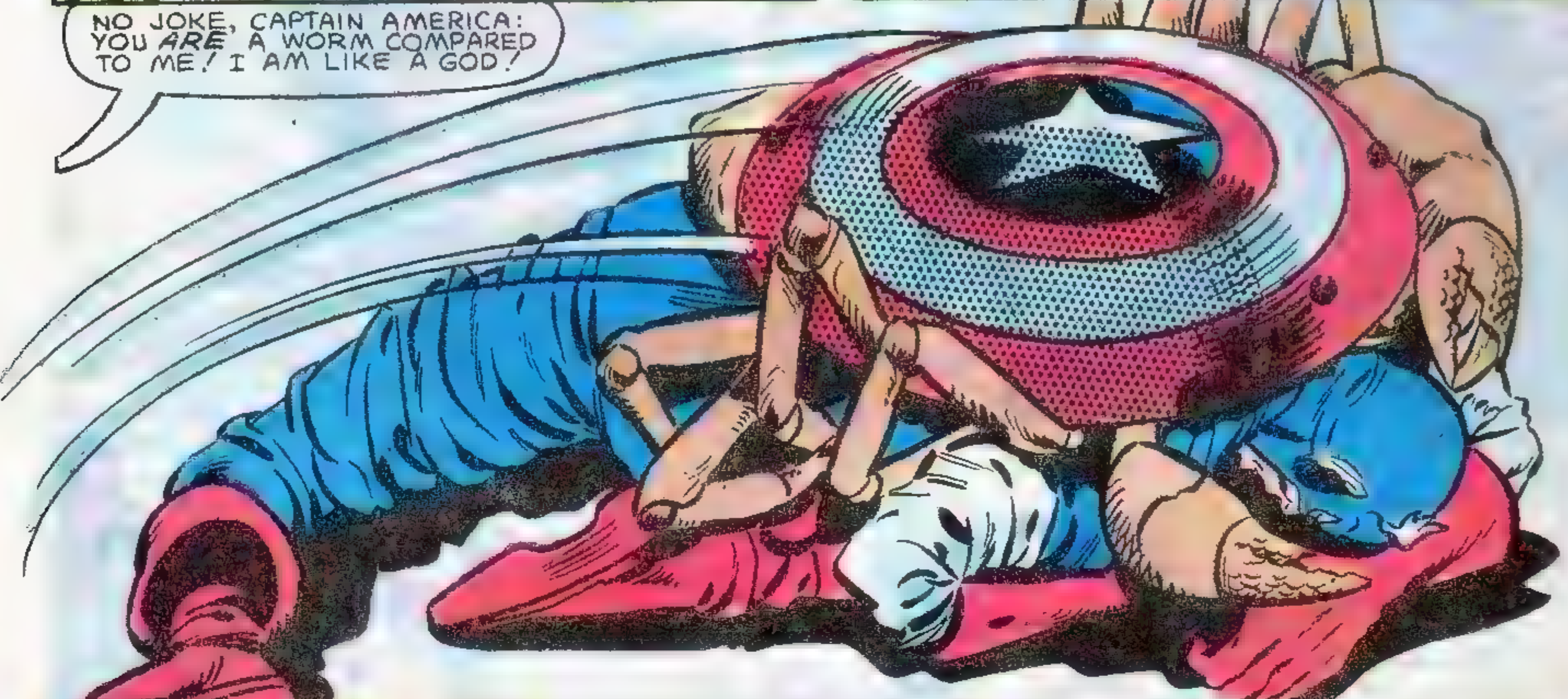


YOUR SHIELD--
A NICE HARD
SHELL--



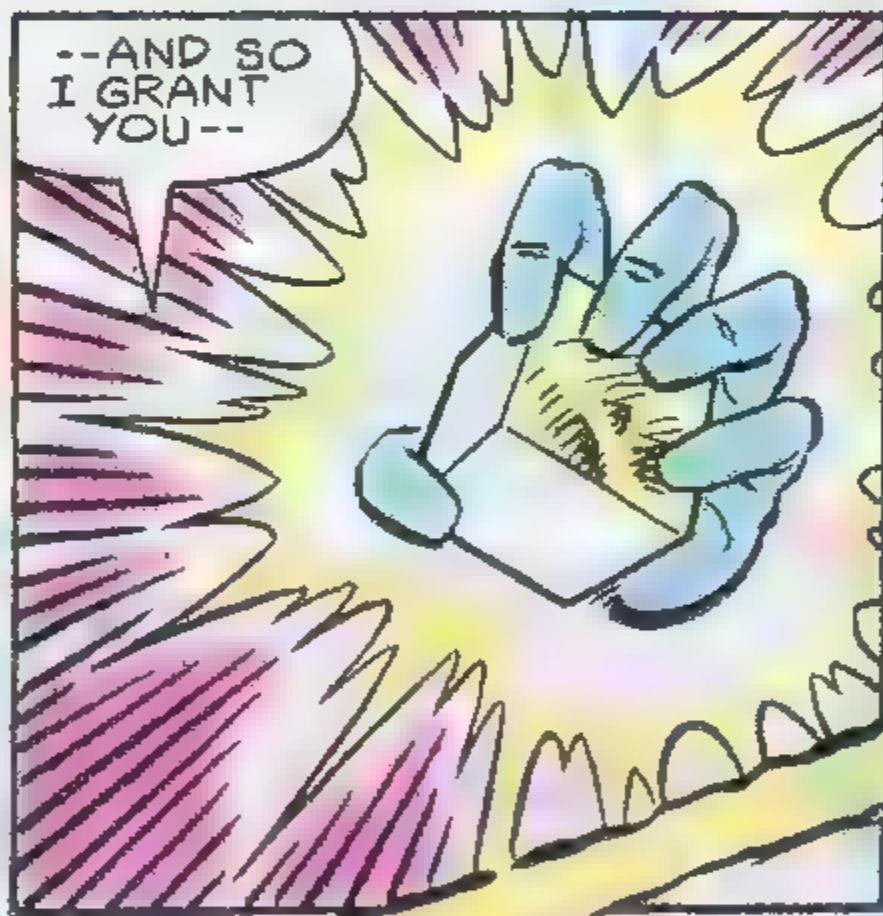
-- REMINDS ME OF
CERTAIN CRABS WHO
FEED ON WORMS!

NO JOKE, CAPTAIN AMERICA:
YOU ARE A WORM COMPARED
TO ME! I AM LIKE A GOD!



BUT I
THINK YOU
SEE THAT.

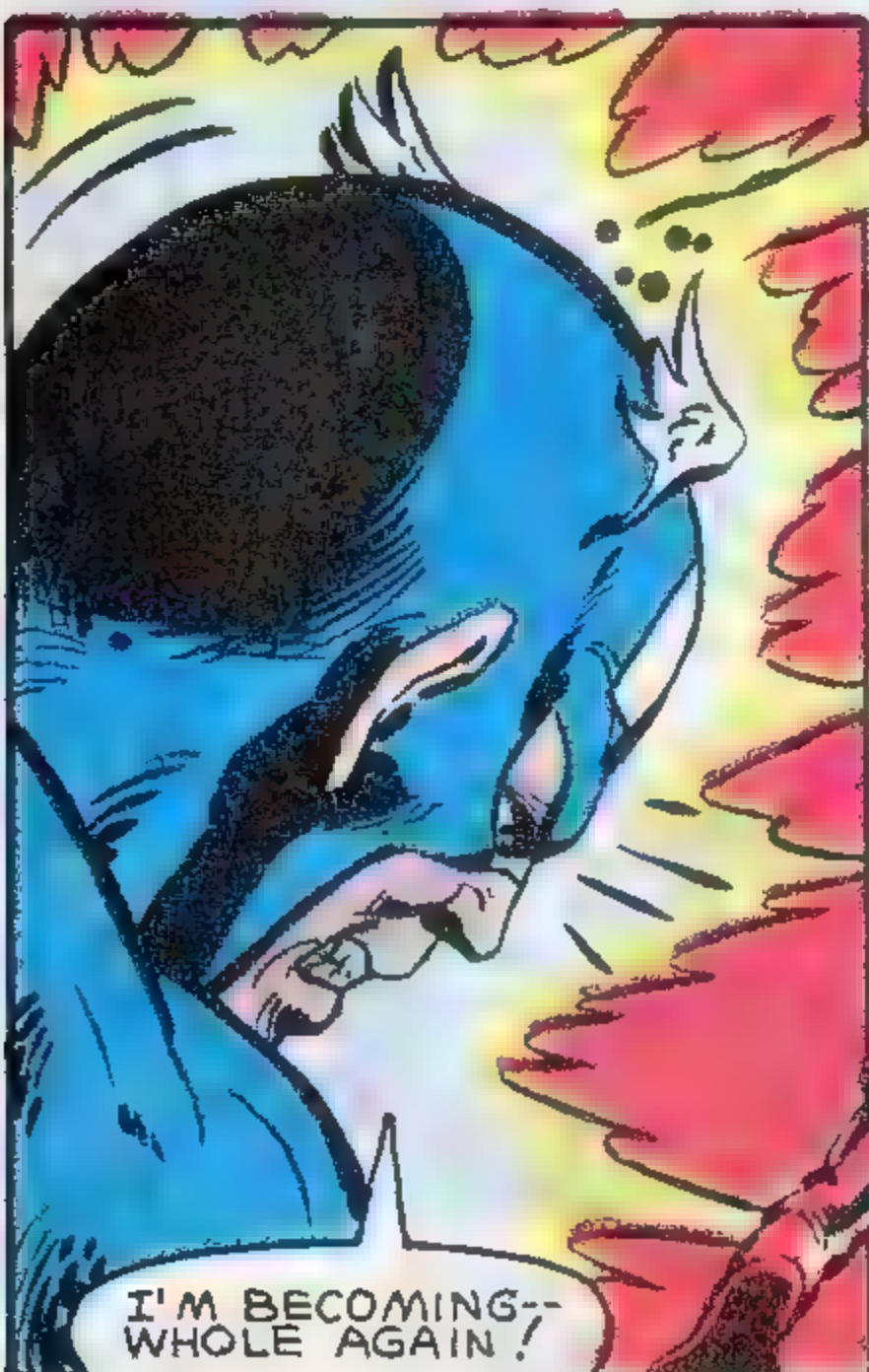
I AM NOT
A VENGEFUL
GOD, HOWEVER--



--AND SO
I GRANT
YOU--



--AN END
TO YOUR
TORMENTS!

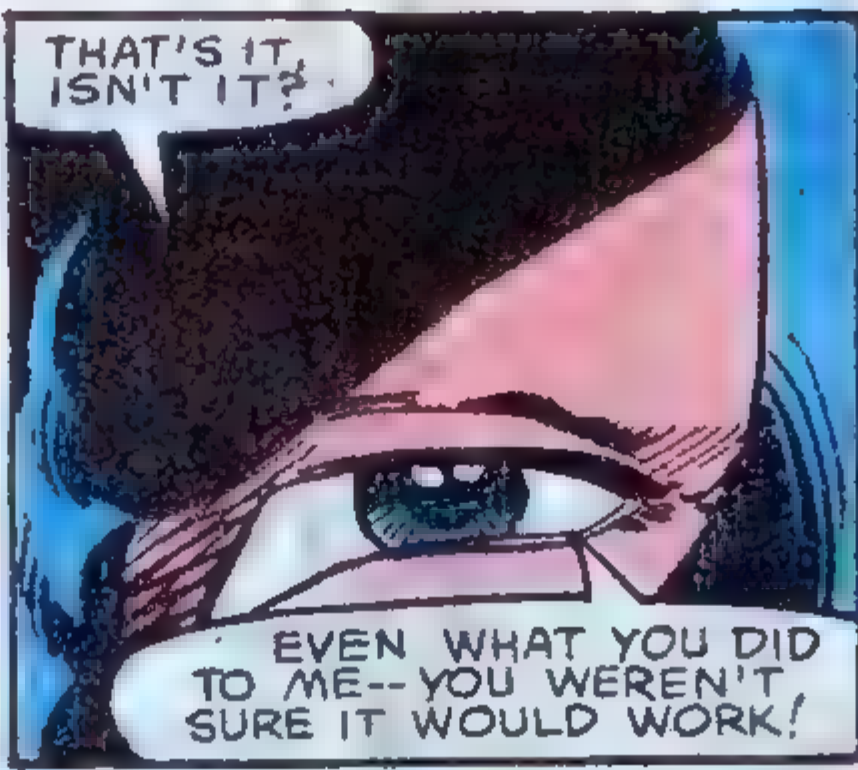
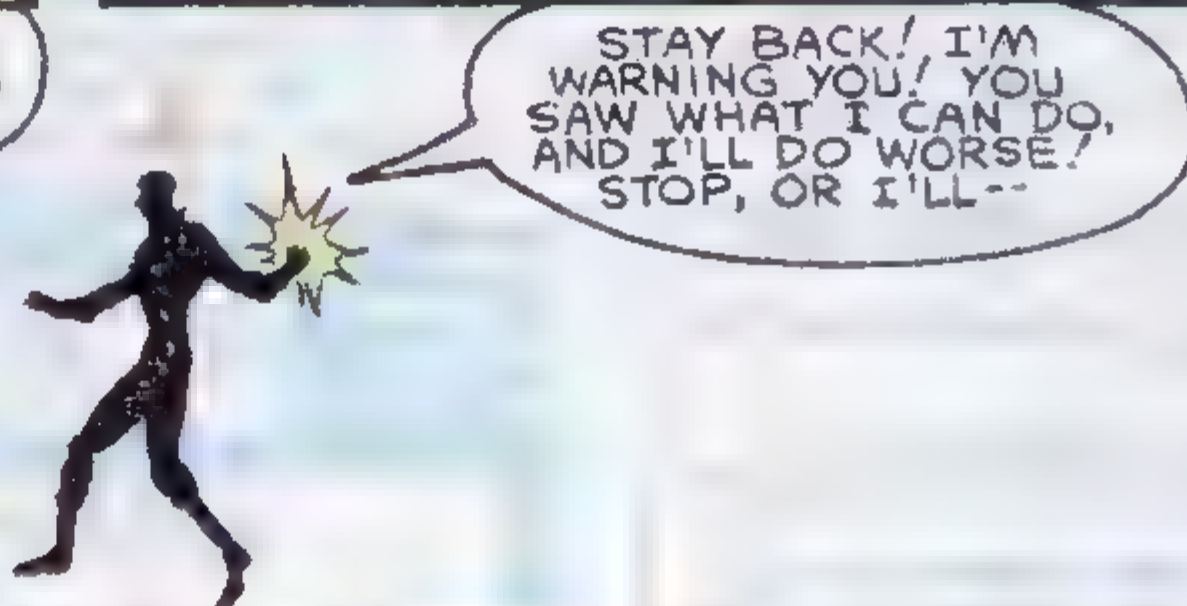
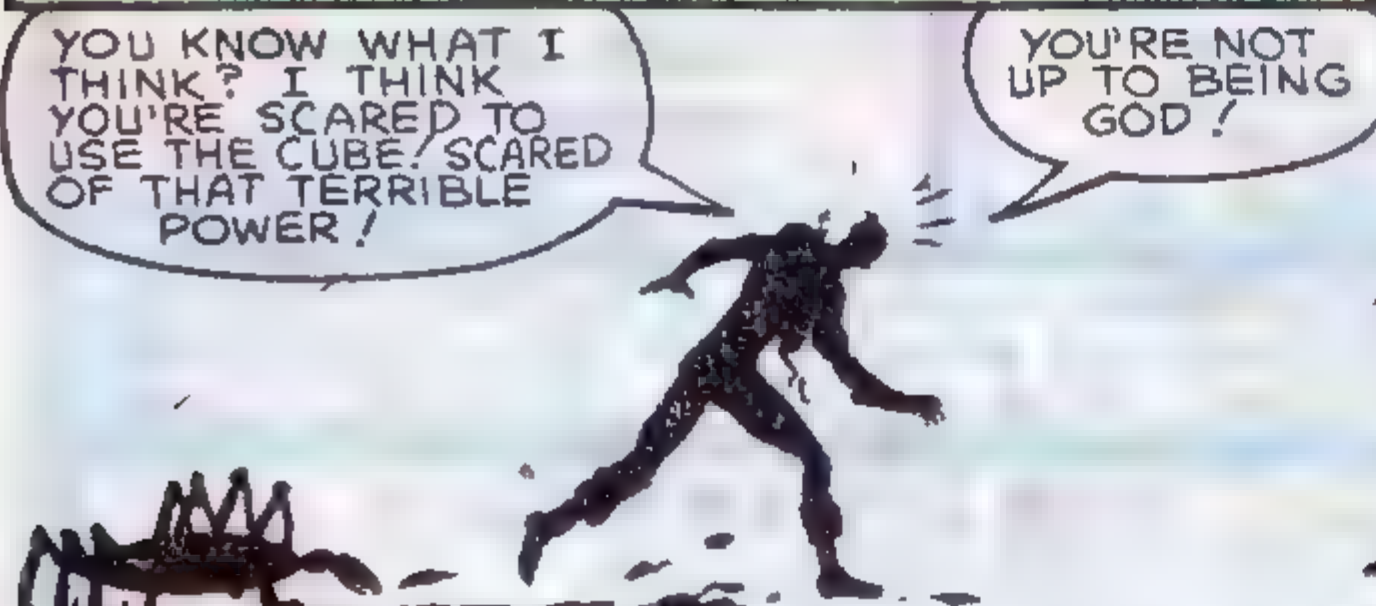


I'M BECOMING--
WHOLE AGAIN!



IS THIS
GODHOOD,
MISTER?
PICKING
THEM UP
TO KNOCK
THEM DOWN
AGAIN?

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND--
I MEANT
TO KILL
YOU--!



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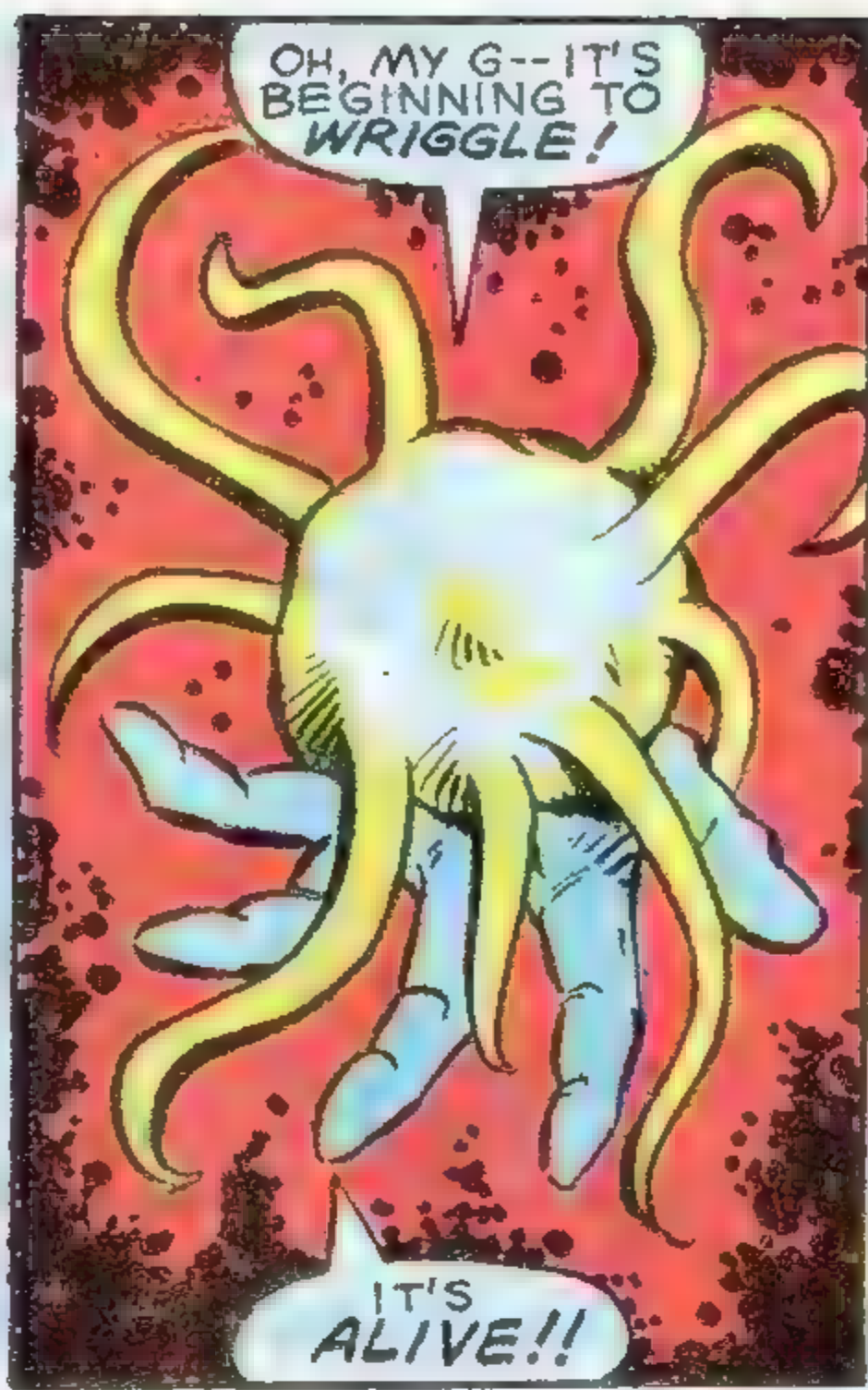
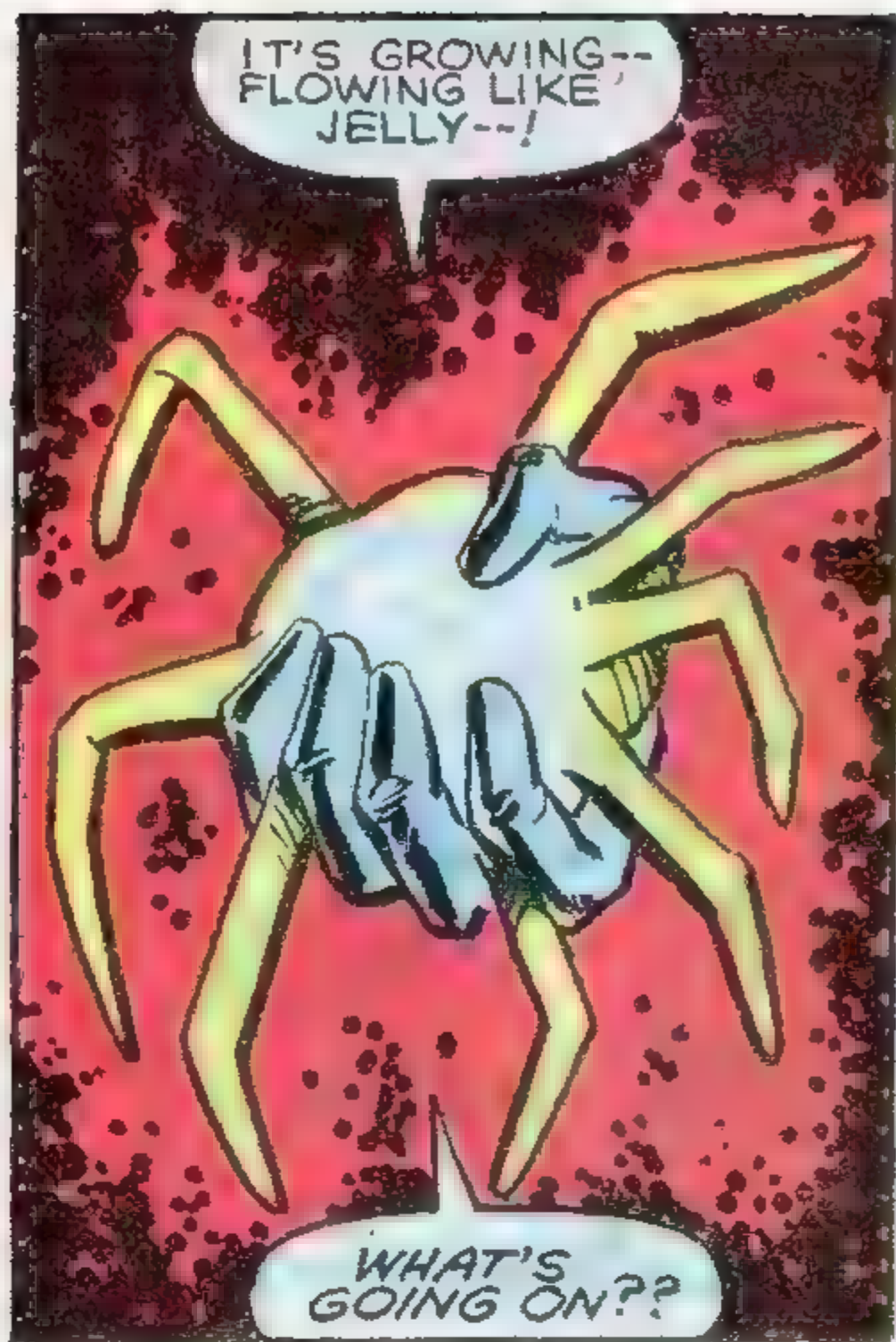
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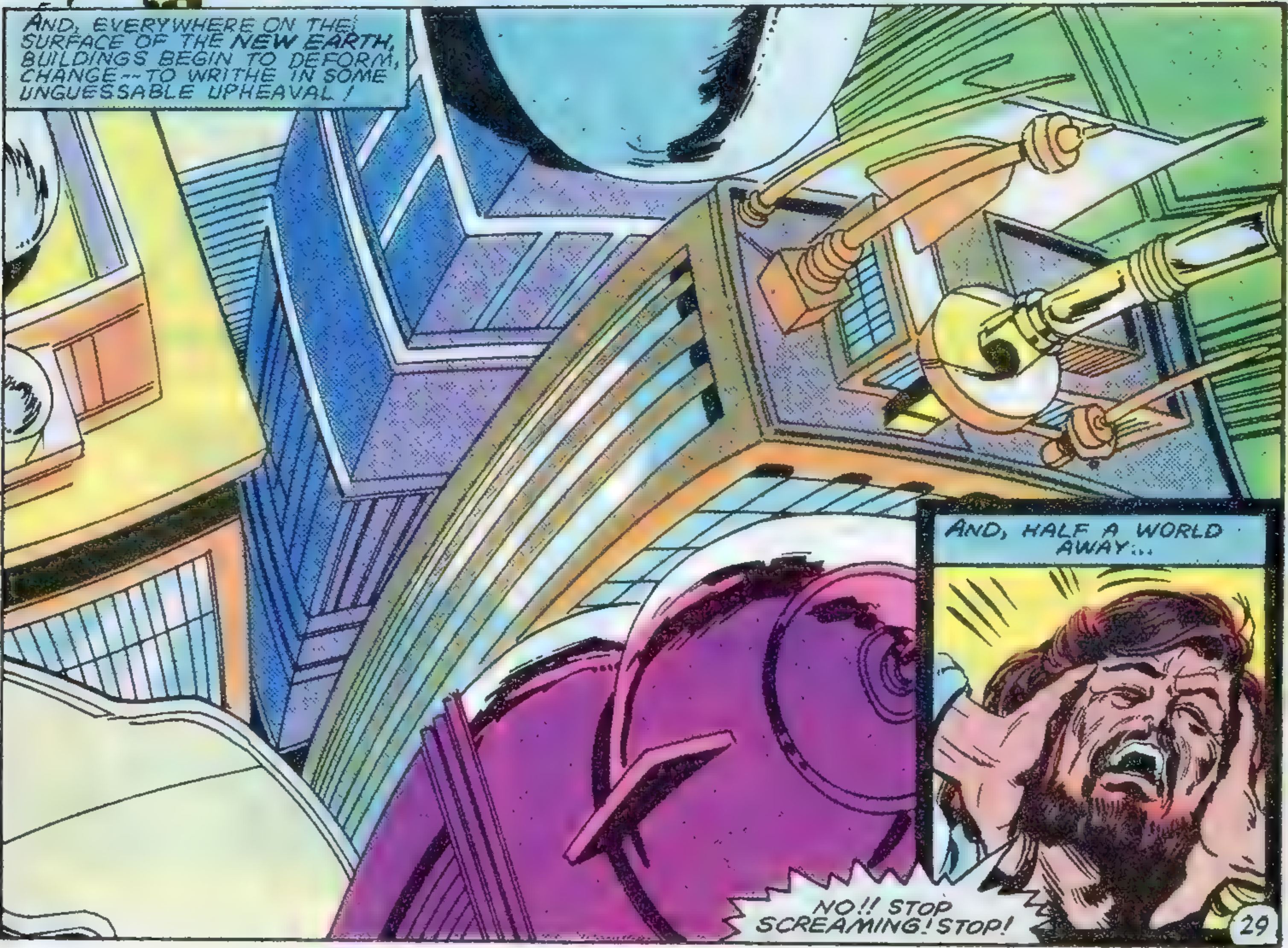
Signature of Parent or Guardian

MC63



LASH OUT.

KRADDA-BOOOON!!



IT'S PROBING MY BRAIN--
REACHING IN ON ITS OWN!
I CAN FEEL IT!

FEEL. KNOW.

DEEP IN.

HATE.

MONSTER.

AND IF THE
TOWERS OF
TECHNOPOLIS
WERE STARTLING,
IT IS NOTHING
COMPARED TO THE
TRANSFORMATION
CAPTAIN AMERICA
WITNESSES NOW!

FOR IF TECHNOPOLIS WAS THE ACTUALIZATION
OF BERNARD WORRELL'S CONSCIOUS MIND,
WHAT PRESENTS ITSELF NOW IS THE WORLD
REMADE IN THE IMAGE OF HIS UNCONSCIOUS!

HATE.

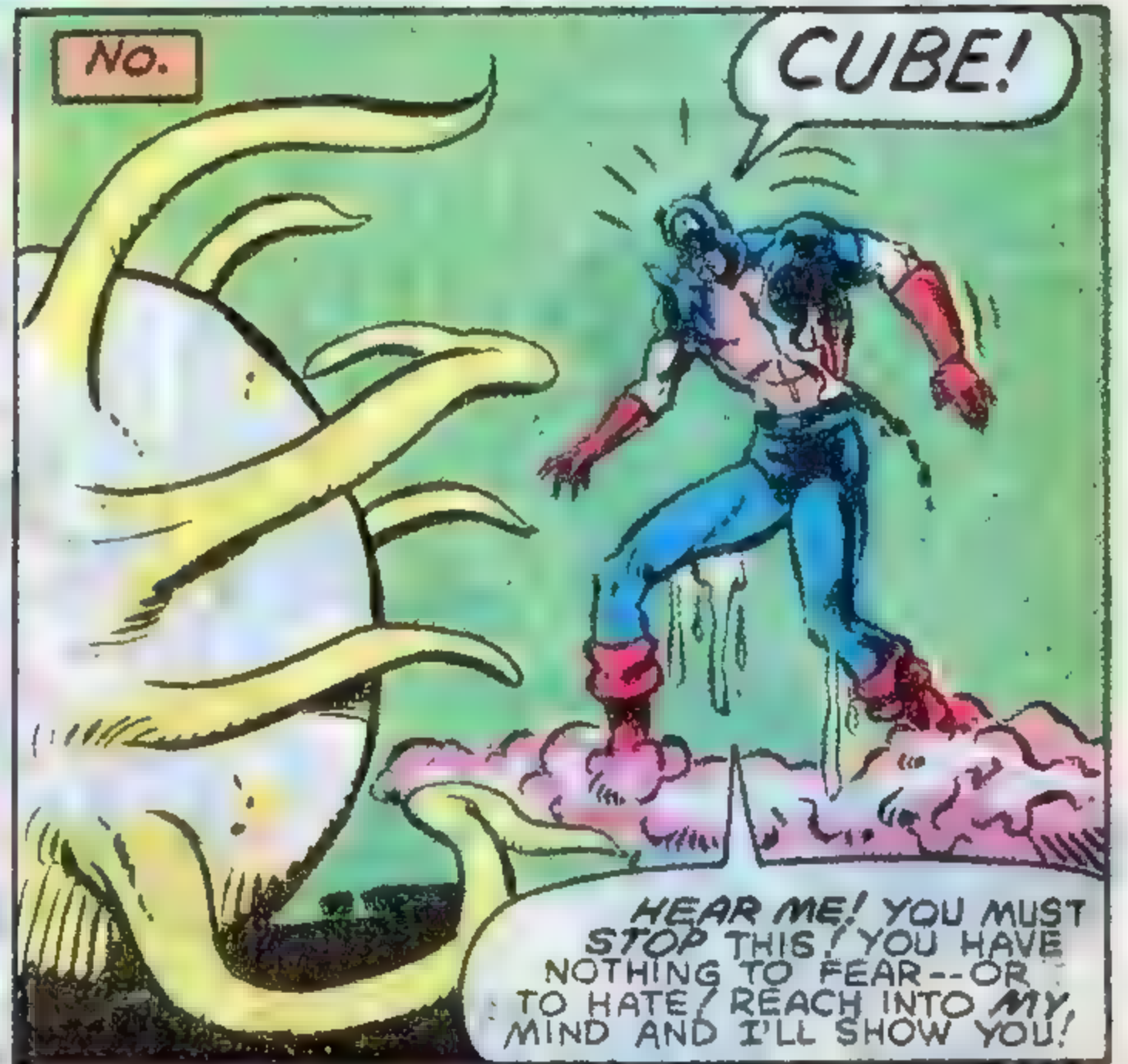
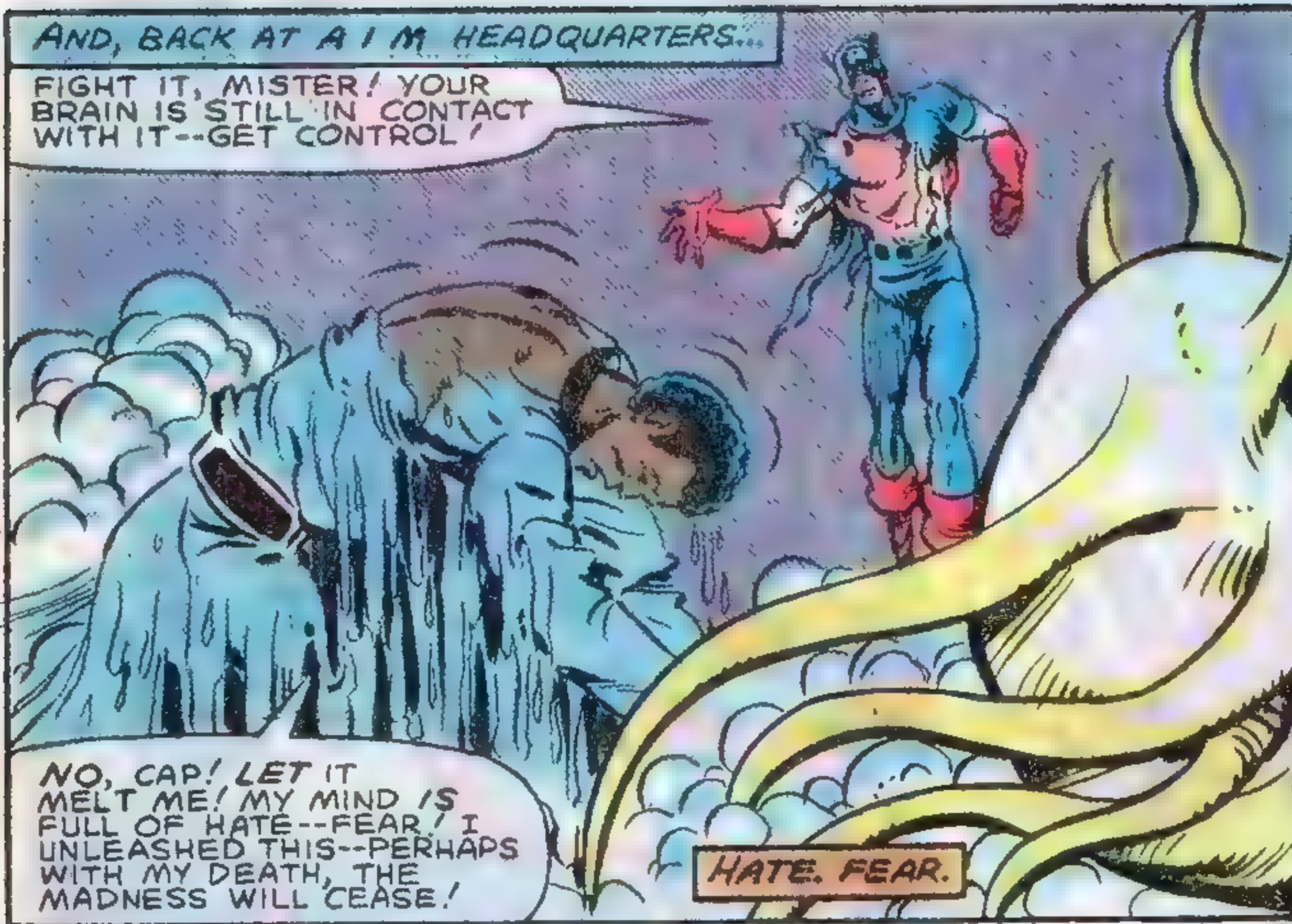
AND, AMID THE SNOWS
OF THE HIMALAYAS THE
AQUARIAN IS IN THE MIDST
OF A STRANGE VISITATION...

YOU ARE THE HERALD
IT HAD MADE. IF YOU
ARE HERE, THEN
THINGS HAVE GONE
AMISS.

AMISS? THERE
IS SUCH AGONY
--SUCH FEAR--

BUT-- I SENSE
YOUR POWER--
CAN YOU STOP
IT? CAN YOU?

PERHAPS NOT,
WE SHALL SEE.



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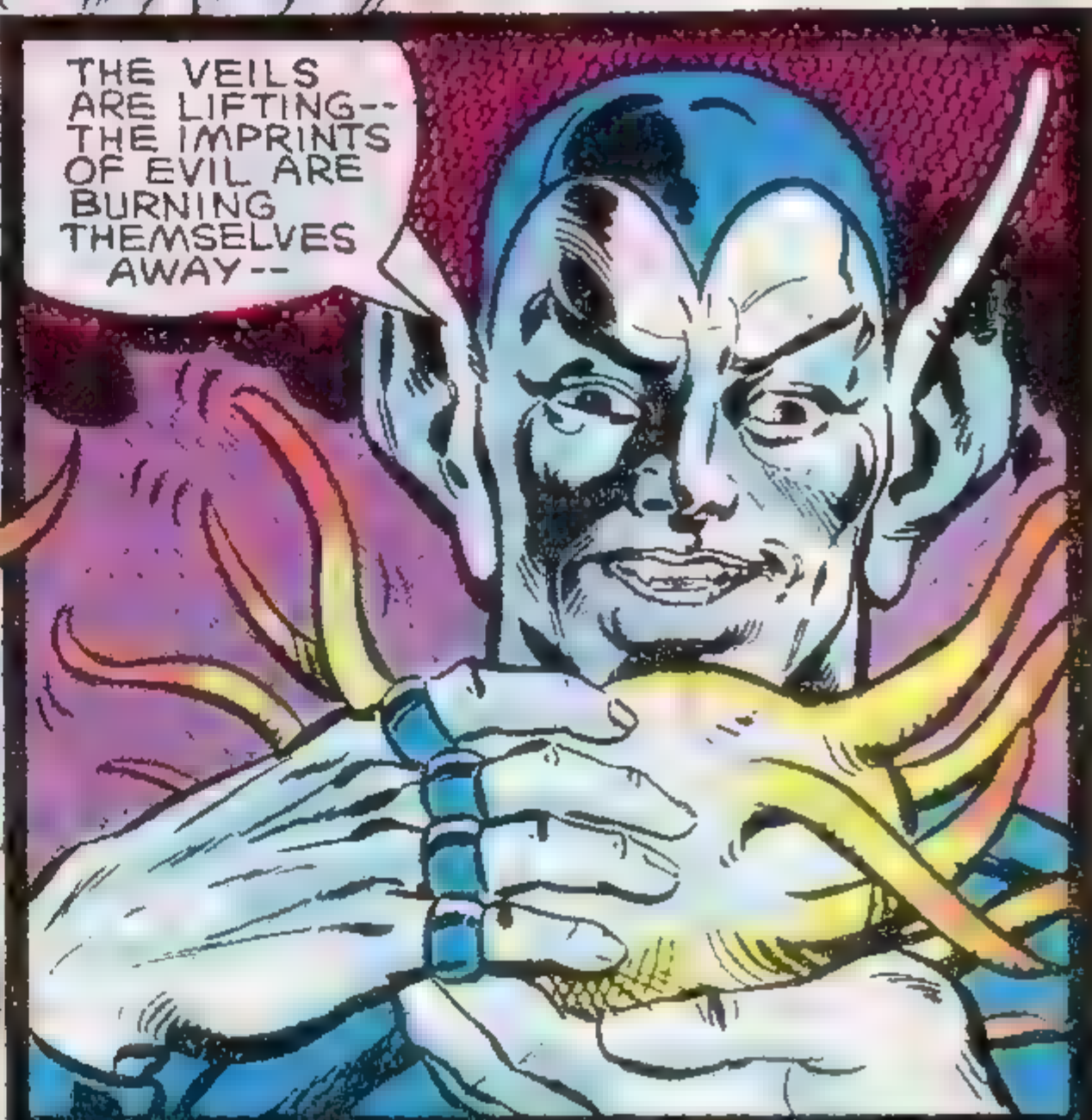
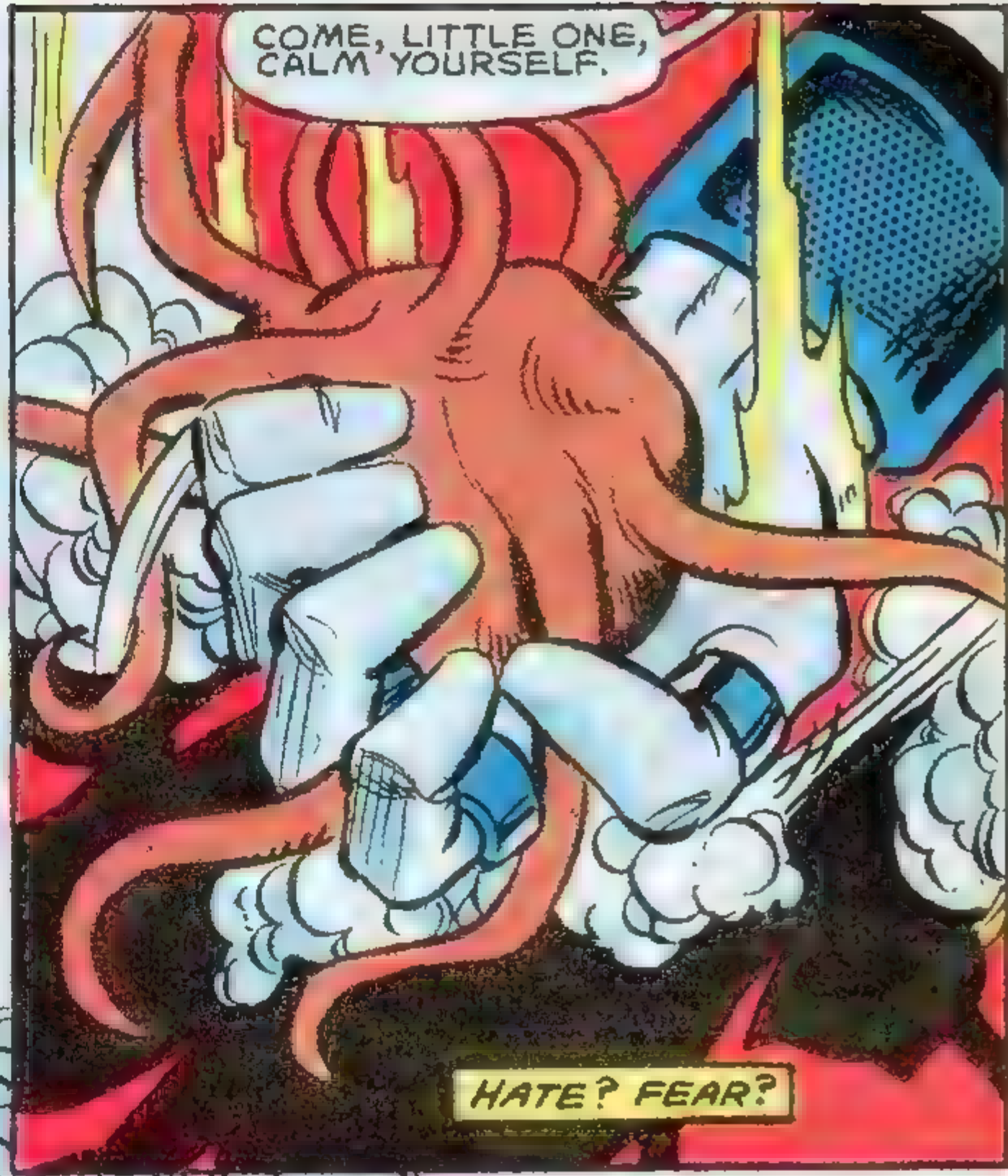
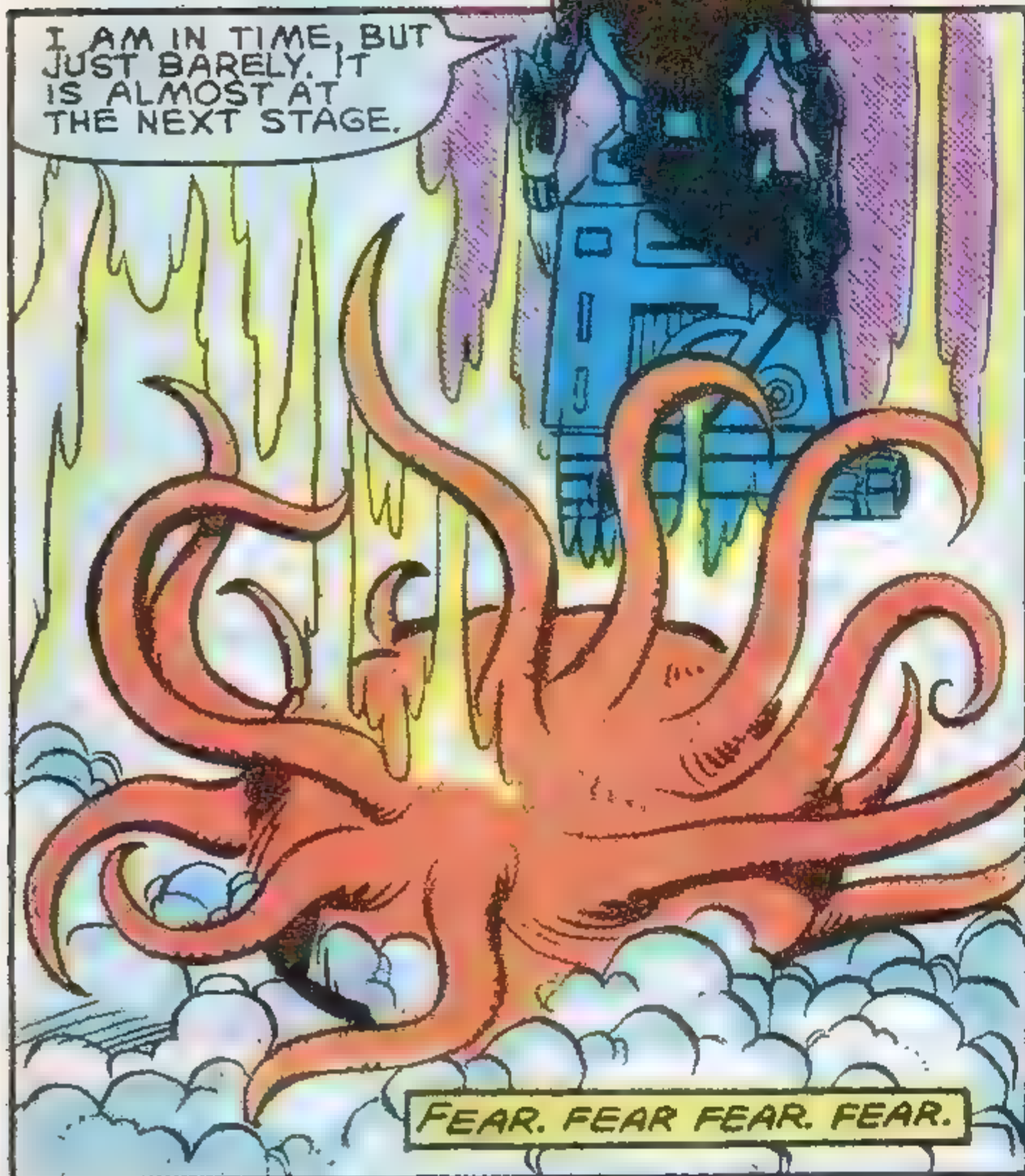
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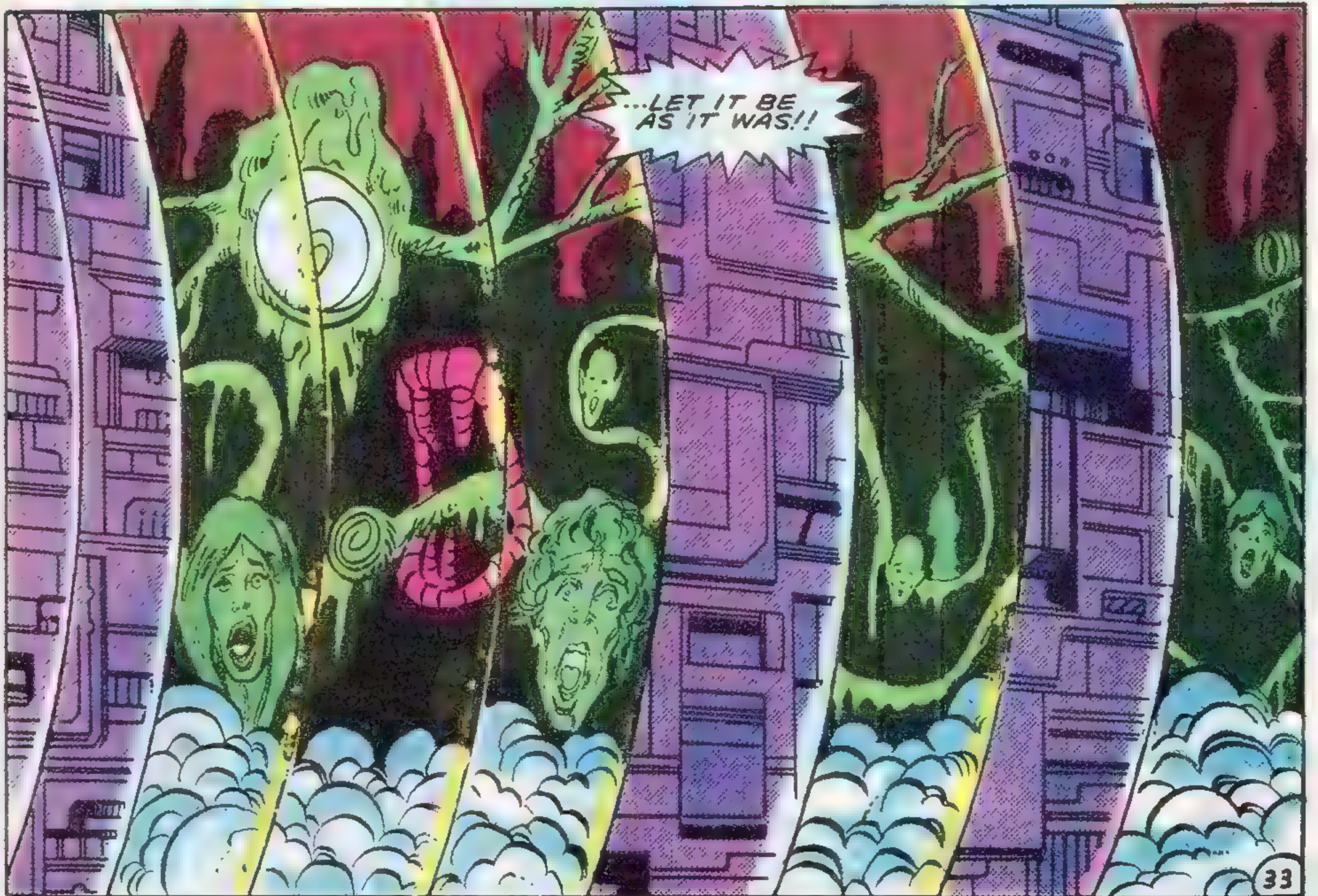
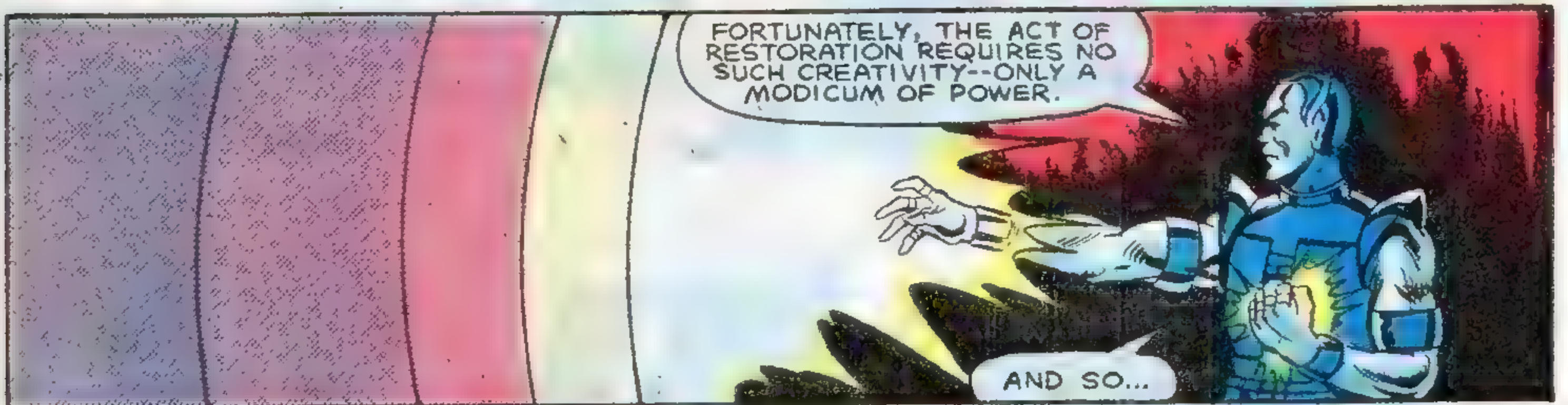
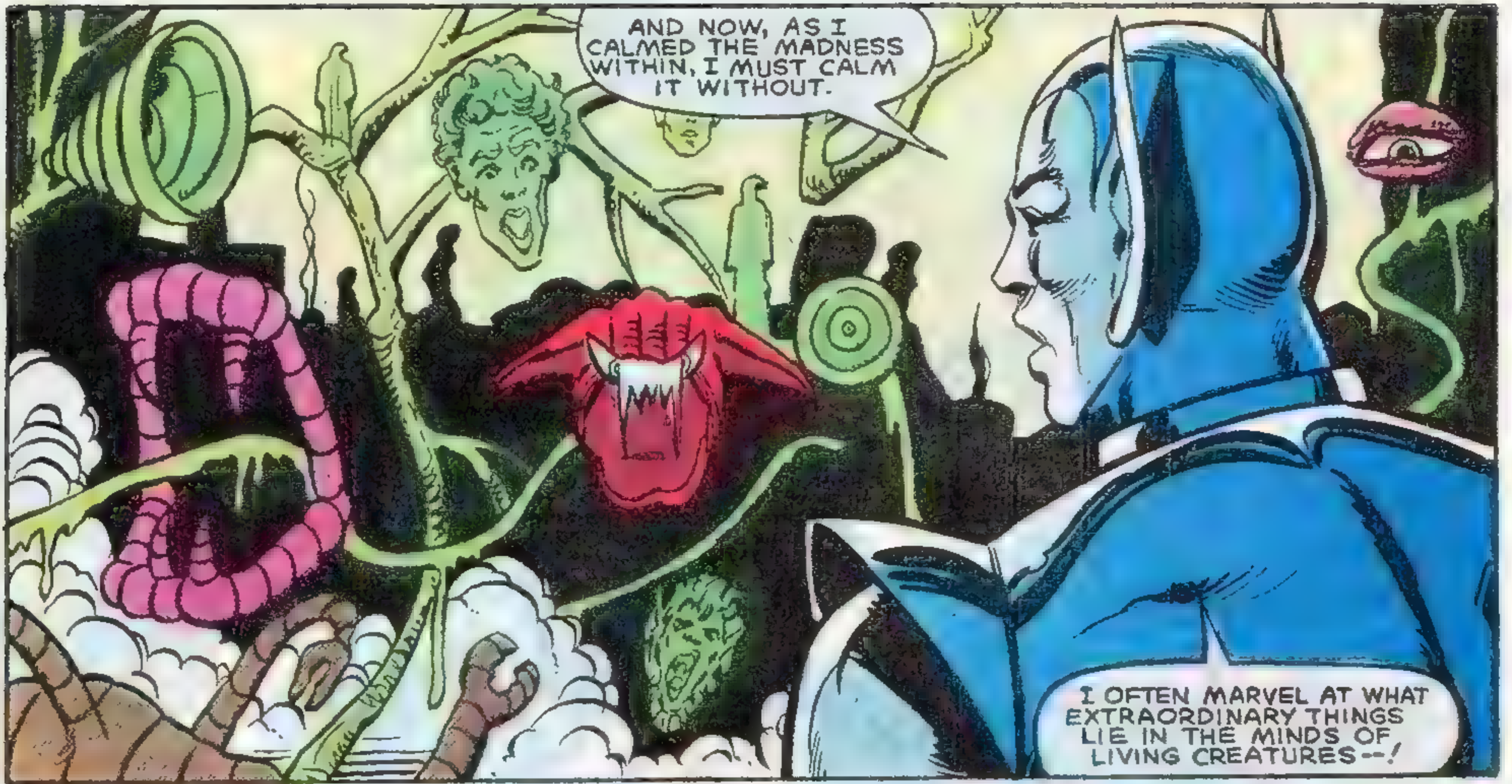
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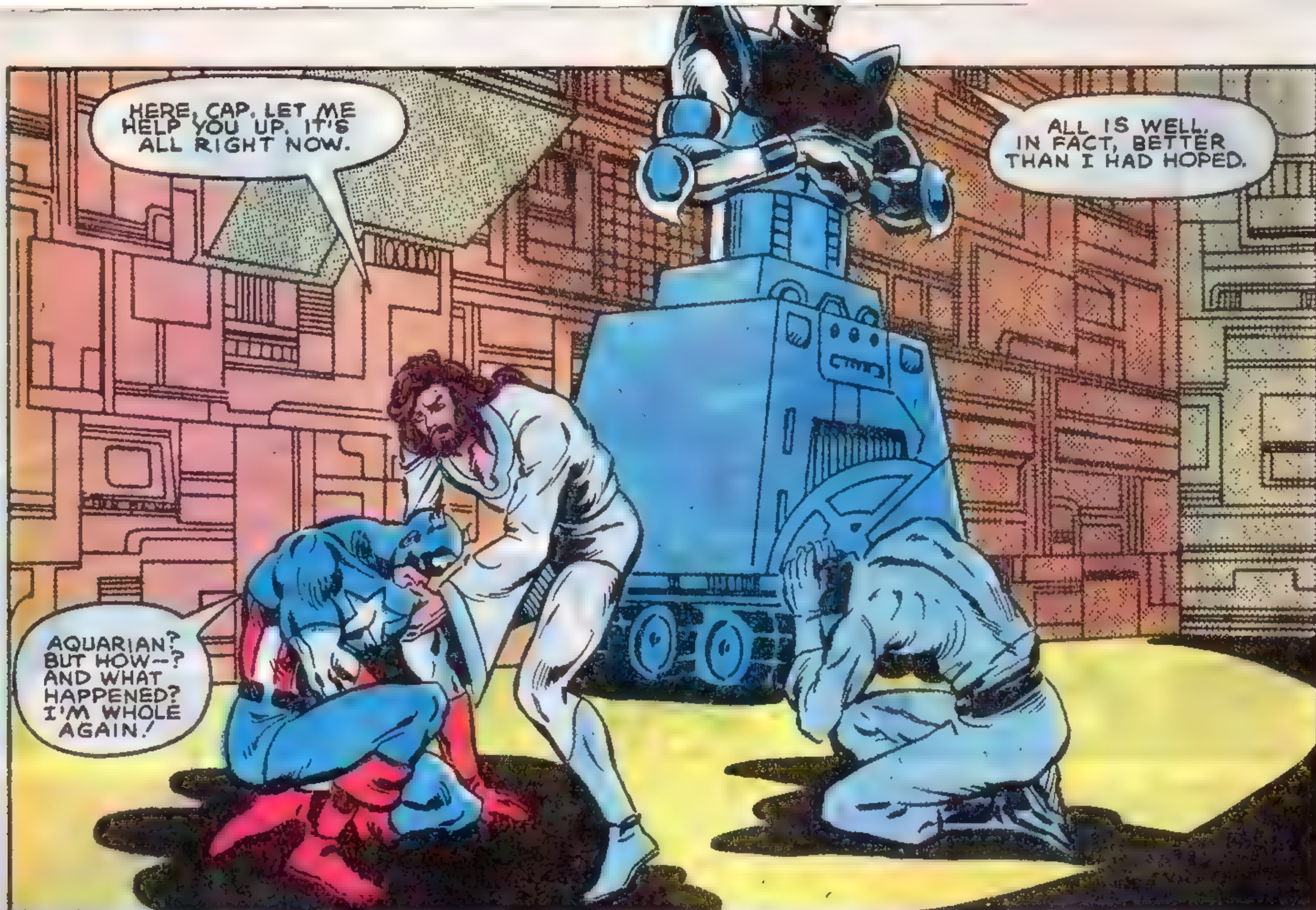
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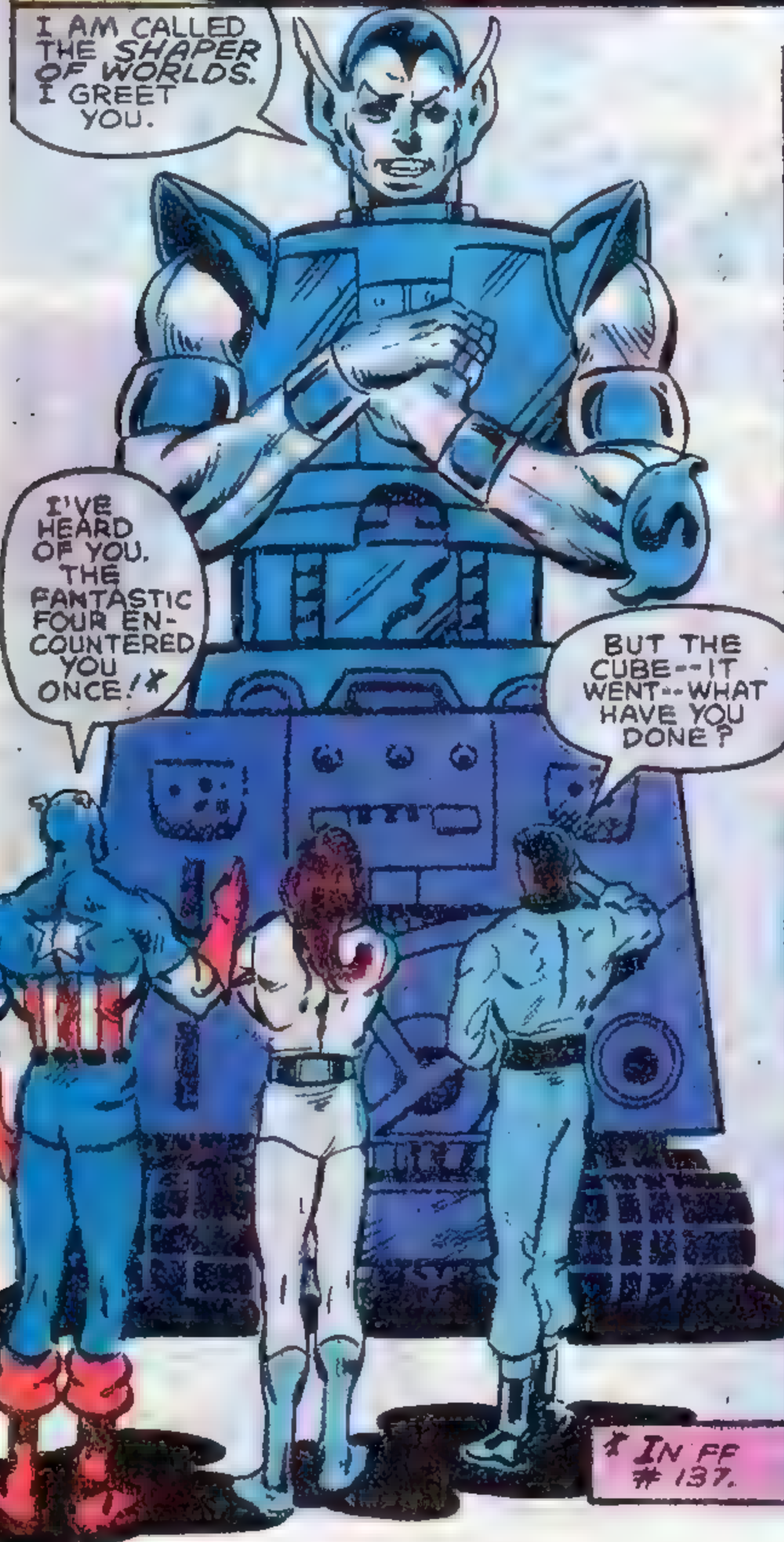




HERE, CAP. LET ME
HELP YOU UP. IT'S
ALL RIGHT NOW.

ALL IS WELL,
IN FACT, BETTER
THAN I HAD HOPED.

AQUARIAN?
BUT HOW--?
AND WHAT
HAPPENED?
I'M WHOLE
AGAIN!



I AM CALLED
THE SHAPER
OF WORLDS.
I GREET
YOU.

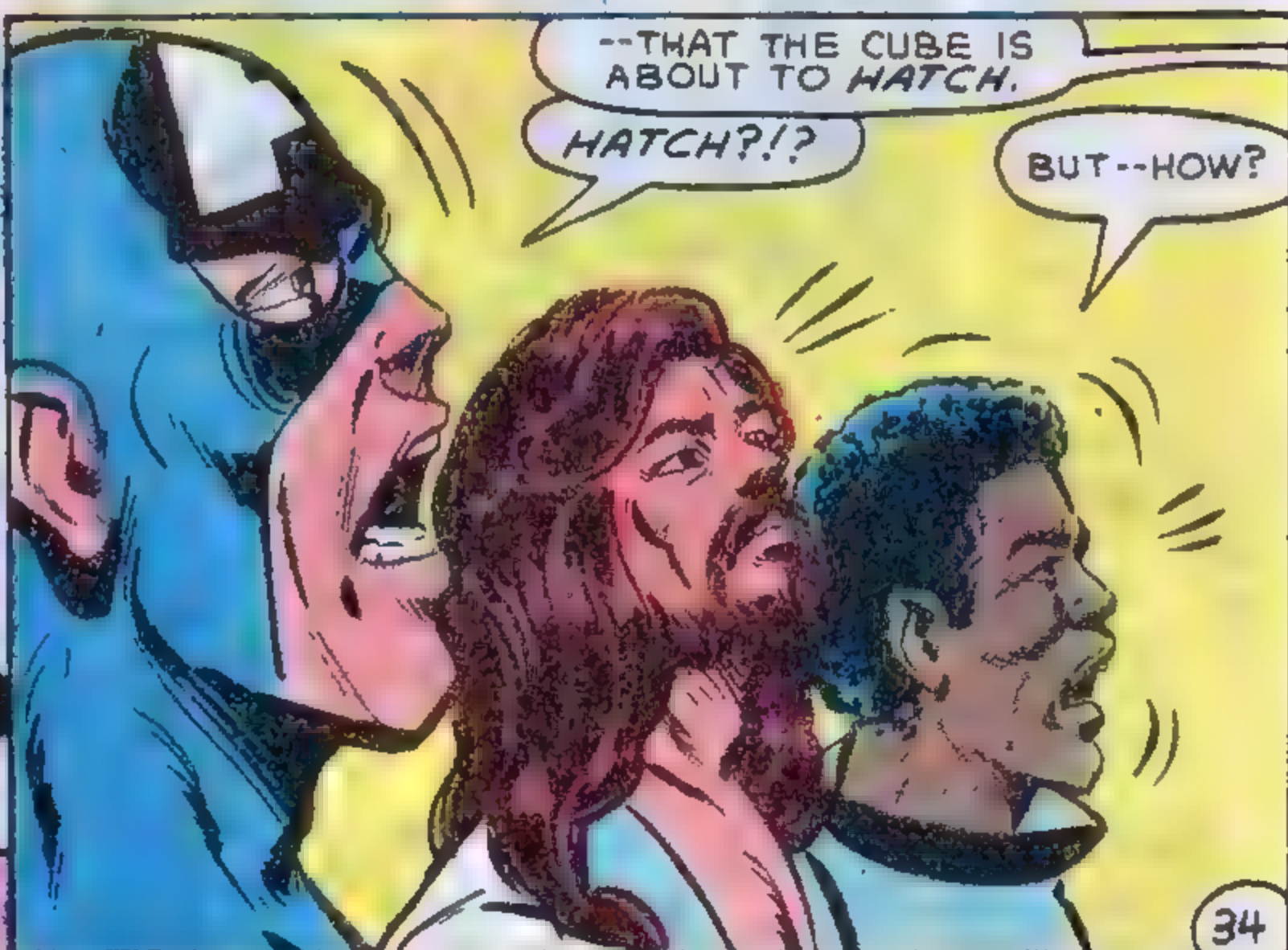
I'VE
HEARD
OF YOU,
THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR EN-
COUNTERED
YOU ONCE!*

BUT THE
CUBE--IT
WENT--WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?



THE CUBE IS QUITE
SAFE--AS ARE YOU.

IN FACT,
IT IS
WITH SOME
PRIDE
THAT I
TELL YOU--



--THAT THE CUBE IS
ABOUT TO HATCH.
HATCH?!?

BUT--HOW?

* IN FF
137.

TO EXPLAIN *HOW*, I MUST BEGIN AGES AGO, WITH A RACE YOU CALL THE **SKRULLS**. THEY ACHIEVED A HIGH LEVEL OF SCIENCE BEFORE YOUR PLANET EVEN BOASTED LIFE.

"AND QUITE NATURALLY, THE THOUGHT OF A DEVICE THAT COULD TURN DESIRE INTO REALITY WAS AN ULTIMATE GOAL OF THEIR TECHNOLOGY."

"THE DEVICE WAS JUST AS NATURALLY APPROPRIATED BY THE SKRULL EMPEROR."

"AND, AFTER MILLENNIA, THEIR SCIENTISTS SUCCEEDED!"

"HE DECLARED HIMSELF A GOD, AND, IN SOME WAYS, FOR MANY YEARS, HE WAS!"

"BUT SOON, THE DEVICE BEGAN TO CHANGE-- AFTER YEARS OF RESPONDING TO THE EMPEROR'S PERSONALITY--"

"KNOWING ONLY THE POWER-MAD PSYCHOLOGY OF THE EMPEROR, THE NASCENT INTELLIGENCE LASHED OUT--"

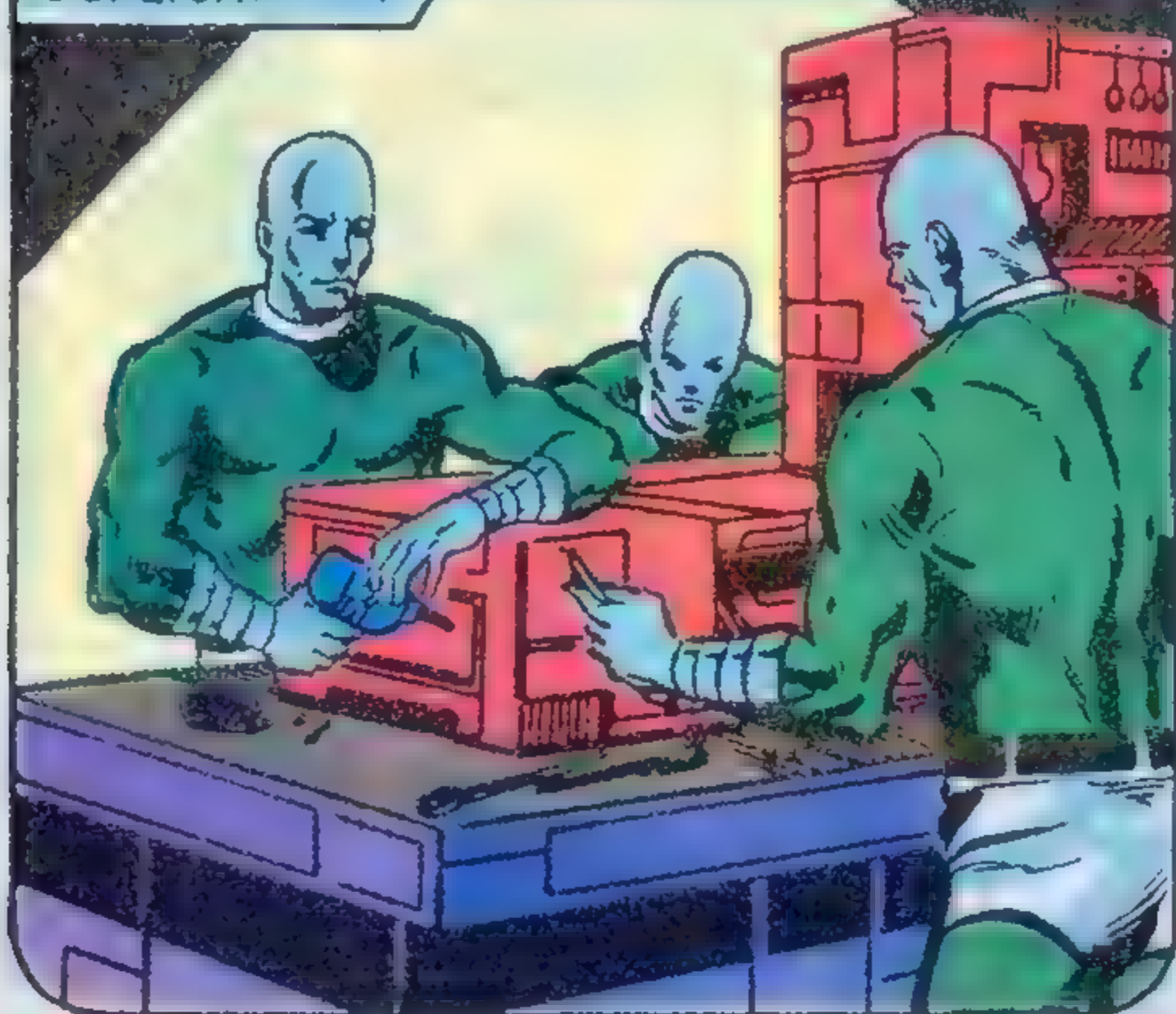
"--IT BEGAN TO DEVELOP ONE OF ITS OWN--IN THE EMPEROR'S IMAGE!"

"--REMAKING, TWISTING, DESTROYING, STAR SYSTEM AFTER STAR SYSTEM--!"

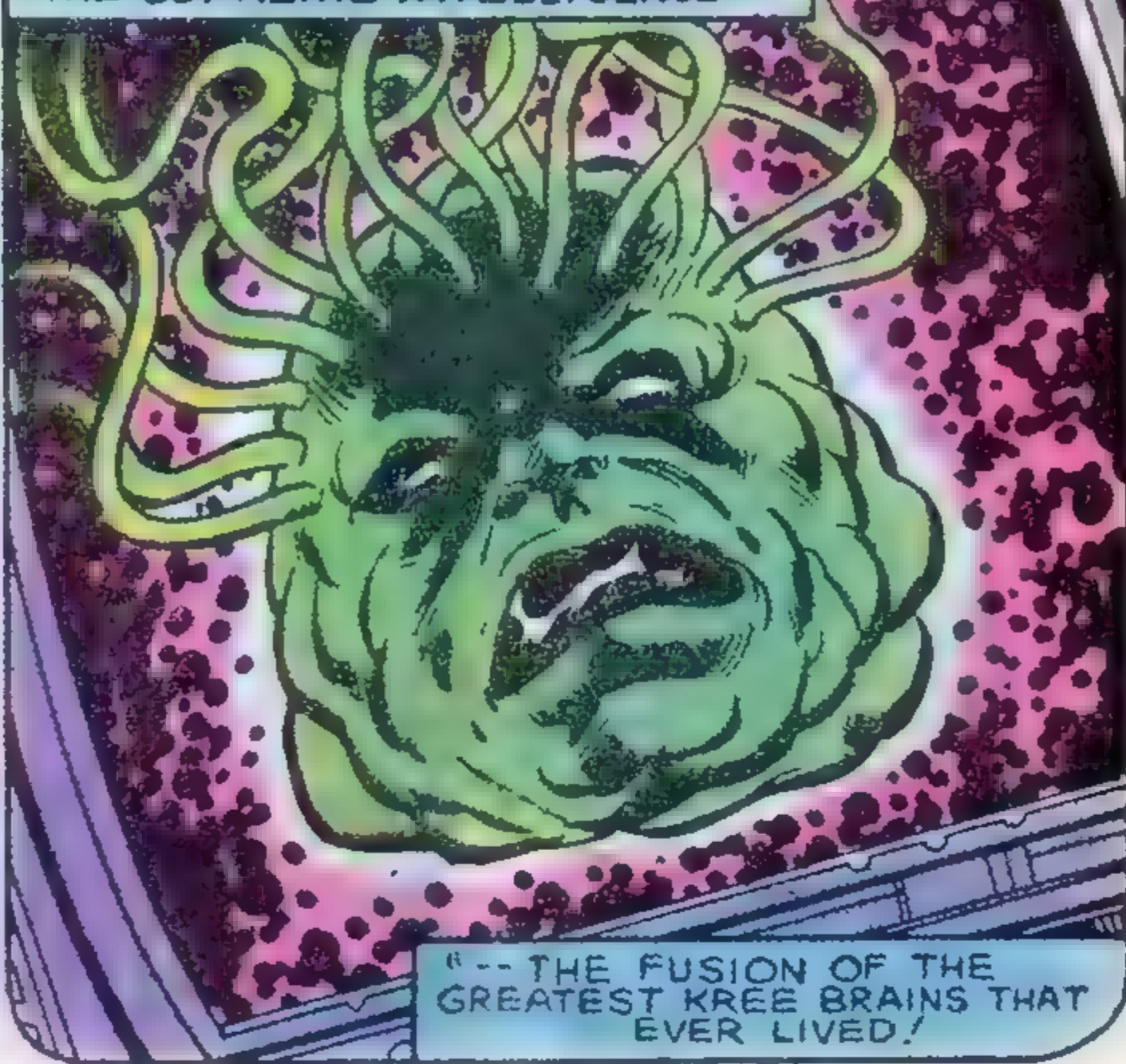
IT DESTROYED TWO-THIRDS OF THE SKRULL GALAXY, SENDING THAT EMPIRE BACK INTO BARBARISM, BEFORE IT ATTAINED MATURITY.

YOU SEE -- I AM THE SKRULL COSMIC CUBE.

"IN A LATER AGE, THE ALIEN KREE, HAVING HEARD OF THE SKRULLS' GREAT DEVICE, ARROGANTLY THOUGHT TO DUPLICATE IT!"

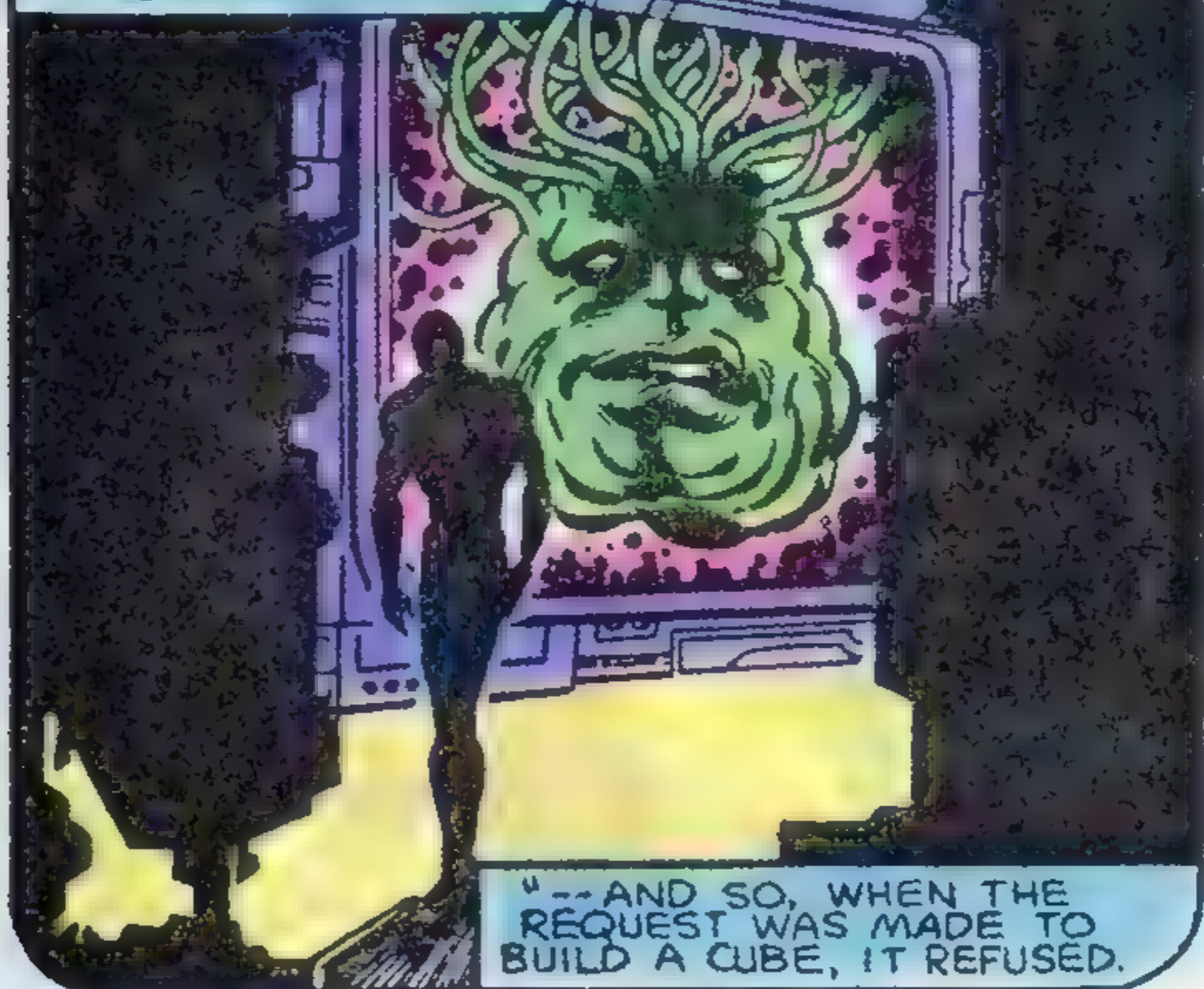


"TO THAT END, THEY BUILT THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE--"



"-- THE FUSION OF THE GREATEST KREE BRAINS THAT EVER LIVED!"

"BUT THE WARLIKE KREE HAD BUILT THE SUPREME ONE TOO WELL! IT SAW THE INCREDIBLE DANGER IN SUCH A DEVICE--"



"--AND SO, WHEN THE REQUEST WAS MADE TO BUILD A CUBE, IT REFUSED."

"AMONG ITS MYRIAD OTHER FUNCTIONS, THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE KEPT A WATCHFUL EYE OVER THE COSMOS FOR OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL CIVILIZATIONS THAT MIGHT MAKE A CUBE--"



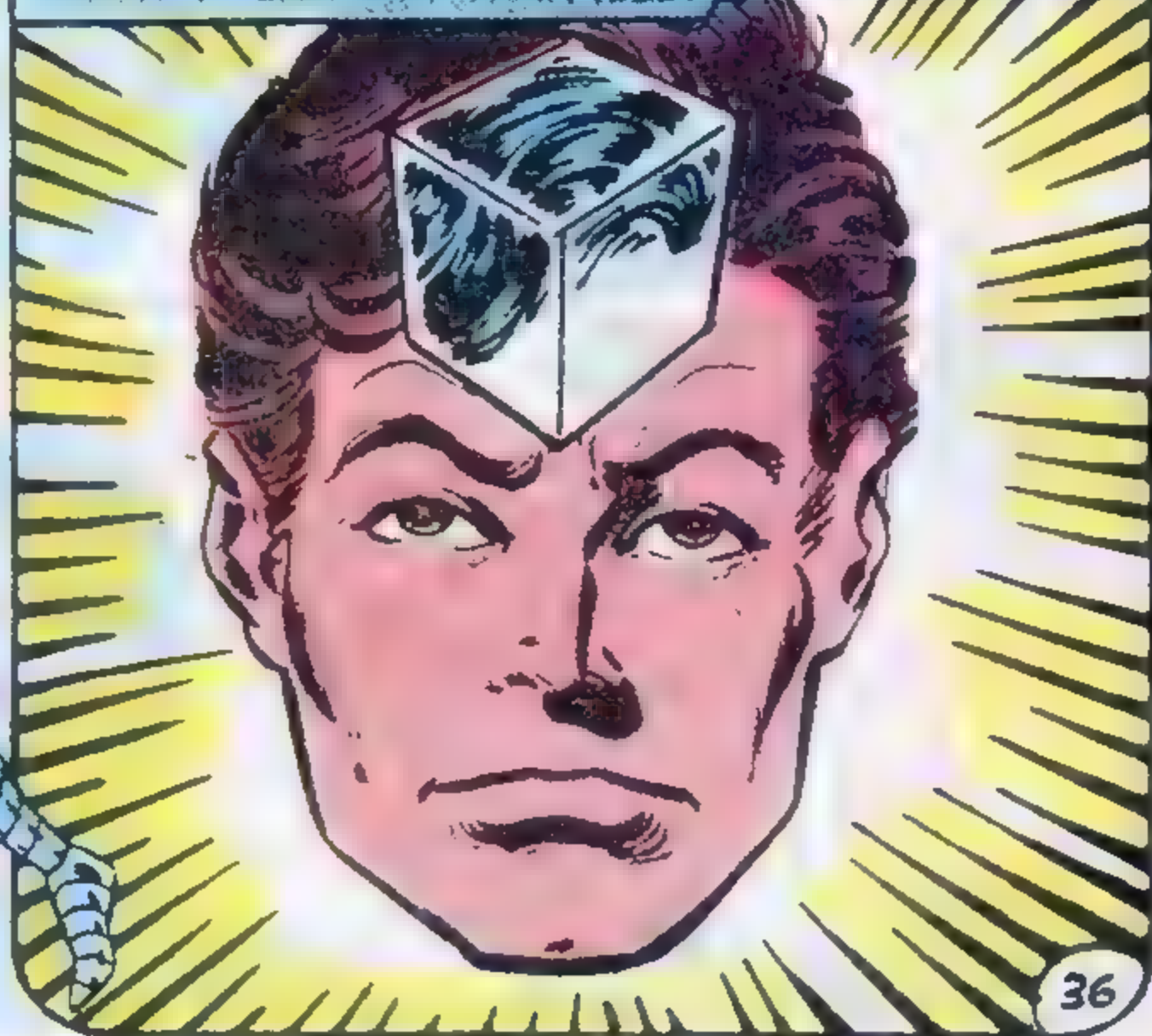
"--AND THUS HIS ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE EARTH WHEN A CUBE WAS BORN!"

"I DO NOT KNOW WHAT OTHER STEPS HE TOOK--NOR, FRANKLY, DO I CARE MUCH."

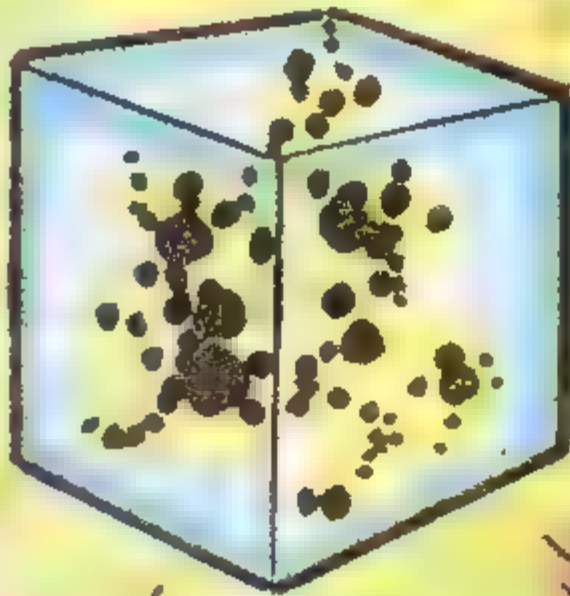


"WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT WHEN THE KREE-SKRULL CONFLICT RECENTLY TORE THREE GALAXIES APART--"

"--HE IMPLANTED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CUBE WITHIN THE EARTHLING RICK JONES, AND THUS KEPT HIM AS A MONITOR ON EARTH VIA A KREE HE WAS BONDED TO NAMED CAPTAIN MARVEL!"



"THAT CONTRACT WAS EVENTUALLY
BROKEN--BUT NEVER DID EARTH'S
CUBE LEAVE HIS SCRUTINY."



"EVENTUALLY, THE TIME
CAME --THE CRUCIAL,
NIGHTMARE TIME--"

"--AND THE SUPREME IN-
TELLIGENCE SUMMONED ME
FROM A WORLD BEYOND WORLDS,
AS HE HAD SOUGHT ME OUT
AGES AGO--"



"AND SET ME OFF IN
SEARCH OF MY--KIN."

AND SO I CAME TO EARTH, TO
NURTURE THE INFANT CUBE AS
I HAD NEVER BEEN NURTURED--
SO THAT IT WOULD NOT STRIKE
OUT AS I HAD STRUCK OUT.

BUT THIS
POWER-CRAZED
MADMAN ALMOST
RUINED IT FOR
YOU--!



NOT SO!
I WAS AIDED BY TWO THINGS...

BUT NOW
THE TIME HAS
COME FOR
HEALING--
AND JOY.

THE FACT THAT
THE CUBE HAD
FORMED THE
AQUARIAN, A
BEING OF UTTER
PEACE AND
DESIRELESS-
NESS--



--WHO
FUNCTIONED AS A
NESTING PLACE,
REMOVED FROM
THE DEMANDS
OF HUMANITY.



AND THE FACT
THAT BERNARD
WORRELL WAS
NOT SO MUCH
EVIL AS MIS-
MISGUIDED--

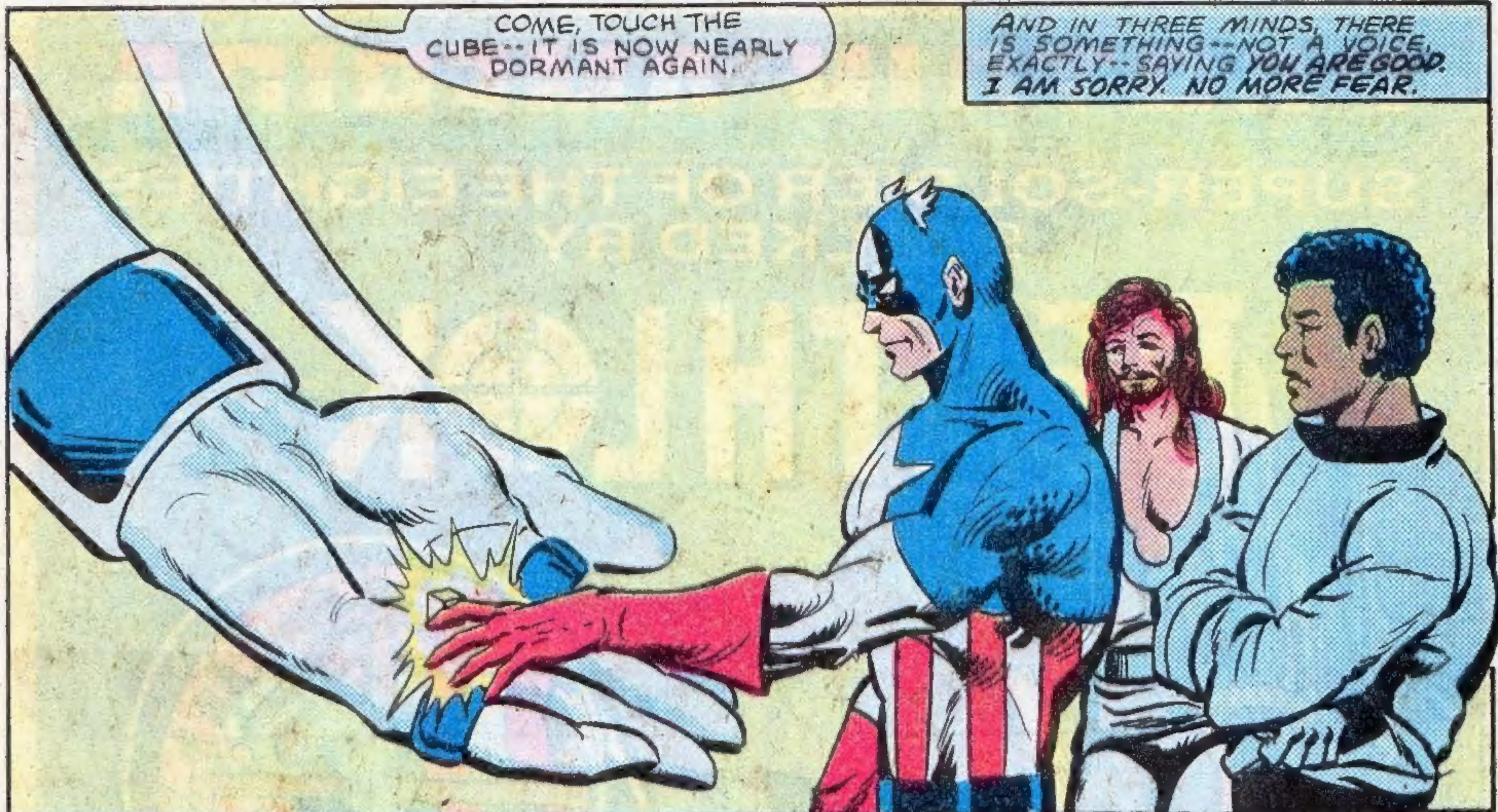


--AND THAT HIS HATE
AND FEAR WAS
ALWAYS TEMPERED
WITH DOUBT
AND HOPE. HE
WAS NOT THE RED
SKULL OR THANOS.



COME, TOUCH THE
CUBE--IT IS NOW NEARLY
DORMANT AGAIN.

AND IN THREE MINDS, THERE
IS SOMETHING--NOT A VOICE,
EXACTLY--SAYING YOU ARE GOOD.
I AM SORRY. NO MORE FEAR.



I GUESS IT MUST BE DIZZYING--
NOT HAVING BEEN IN CONTACT
WITH THE CUBE BEFORE.

A BIT. YOU KNOW, THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME I'VE ACTUALLY ASSISTED
IN A CHILDBIRTH!



SO WHAT
HAPPENS
NOW? DO
WE SAY HELLO
TO ANOTHER
SHAPER OF
WORLDS?



I DO NOT
KNOW. NOT ALL
OF US ATTAIN
THE SAME SHAPE
AND POWER. ALL I
KNOW IS-- I SHALL
WATCH THE CHILD'S
DEVELOPMENT WITH
EAGERNESS.



AND
SO--
FARE-
WELL!
AND
THANK
YOU!

YOU KNOW SOMETHING,
AQUARIAN?



I HAVE A
FEELING THAT THE
CUBE'S CHILDHOOD
IS GOING TO BE AN
INTERESTING ONE.

THE
END

CAPTAIN AMERICA

SUPER-SOLDIER OF THE EIGHTIES
STALKED BY

DEATHLOKTM



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BEGINNING IN
CAPTAIN
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